



County Borough of Wolverhampton

The
Health Services
of
Wolverhampton
in 1956

ANNUAL REPORT

by

J. F. GALLOWAY, M.D., Ch. B., M.R.C.S.
L.R.C.P., D.P.M., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health

and

Principal School Medical Officer.

County Borough of Wolverhampton



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PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

at 31st December, 1956.

Medical Officer of Health	...	...	J. F. Galloway, M.D., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.M., D.P.H.
Deputy Medical Officer of Health	...	...	M. J. Rayner, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (From 1.1.56).
Maternity and Child Welfare Senior Medical Officer	...		A. J. M. Lesslie, M.A., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Assistant Medical Officers	...		M.G. Bryan, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.R.C.O.G., C.P.H. M. Ingham, M.B., Ch.B., D.C.H.
Tuberculosis*	...	...	J. Aspin, M.A., M.D., Ch.B., D.M.R.D. E. S. Frew, M.B., Ch.B. J. D. P. David, B.Sc., M.D., B.Ch.
Analyst	...	...	F. G. D. Chalmers, M.A., B.Sc., F.I.C. (Part time).
Health Visiting Superintendent	...	...	Miss M. Cole, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.
Health Visitors	...	...	14.
Nurses	...	...	1.
Midwifery Supervisor	...	...	Miss E. R. Entwistle, S.R.N., S.C.M., M.T.D., H.V. (Resigned 1.7.56). Mrs. D. K. Rinkel, S.R.N., S.C.M., M.T.D. (From 20.8.56).
District Midwives	...	...	19.
Premature Baby Nurse	...	...	1.
Home Nursing Superintendent	...	...	Miss E. Hill, S.R.N., S.C.M.
Home Nurses	...	...	18 (Five part time).
Mental Health Service Mental Deficiency Officer	...	...	Miss E. Bottomley.
Duly Authorised Officers	...	...	F. L. Bird. E. V. Oram.
Occupation Centre Supervisor	...	...	Miss H. Chettle.
Occupation Centre Assistants	...	...	6 and 1 trainee.
Home Help Service Organiser	...	...	Miss M. Saunders.
Home Helps	...	...	50 (40 part time).
Day Nurseries Matrons	...	...	Miss E. Fitzgerald, S.R.N. Miss K. Murray, C.N.N.
Nursery Assistants	...	...	29.
Domestic Staff	...	...	11 (Six part time).
After-care Officer	...	...	Miss E. H. Poole, B.A., A.M.I.A.
Public Health Inspectors Chief Public Health Inspector	...	...	F. Binns Hartley, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.
Specialist Inspectors	...	...	8.
District Inspectors	...	...	6 (Two part time).
Pupil Inspectors	...	...	3.
Clerical Chief Clerk	...	...	J. Darby.
Clerks	...	...	21.
Clinic Clerks (Part time)	...	...	13.
Other Staff Rodent Operatives	...	...	2.
Miscellaneous	...	...	3.

*Jointly with Birmingham Regional Hospital Board.

Health Department,
59, Waterloo Road,
Wolverhampton.

August 1957.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the
County Borough of Wolverhampton.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the report on the health of Wolverhampton during 1956.

Although births exceeded deaths by 586 the estimated population again declined by 2,300, representing an outward migration of 2,886 people. The population of Wolverhampton reached its maximum of 162,300 in 1952. In the four subsequent years it has fallen by 9,200 and at the same time births have exceeded deaths by 2,630. These figures show that in four years 11,830 people have migrated from the town, mostly to adjacent areas where new houses have been built because there are few sites in Wolverhampton.

In the same period the number of inhabited houses in the borough has increased by 963 and these additional houses coupled with the declining population have reduced the average number of inhabitants of each house from 3.6 persons in 1952 to 3.3 persons in 1956, a fall of 8 per cent in 4 years. This reduction is an accentuation of a tendency that has been apparent for many years ; in 1946 the average number of inhabitants a house was 3.7 persons, in 1936 it was 4.0 persons, and in 1926 it was 4.4 persons.

Employment continued at a high level and the average over the whole year of 0.7 per cent unemployed compared favourably with the national average of 1.1 per cent.

Infectious diseases generally were less prevalent than the previous year although an increased number of cases of gonorrhoea were treated and there were increased notifications of whooping cough and of dysentery of a mild form which only very infrequently required hospital treatment. New claims for sickness benefit sub-

mitted to the Wolverhampton office of the Ministry of National Insurance were lower than the previous year and were at the average rate of 592 a week. The infant mortality rate of 27.3 per thousand live births is the lowest ever recorded in Wolverhampton. Deaths from tuberculosis again fell sharply to a new low level.

Although these figures are evidence of a generally satisfactory position there are also unfavourable features. Accidents were responsible for 74 preventable deaths; 15 were associated with motor vehicles and of the 59 other fatal accidents 40 concerned people aged 75 years of age and over. Cancer of the lung and bronchus continued to increase and killed 60 men and 6 women; the relationship between heavy cigarette smoking and the majority of deaths from this condition is clear. The stillbirth rate continues to be higher than that for England and Wales and it is unfortunate that there are insufficient ante-natal beds in the area despite the efforts of the hospital authorities to remedy this shortage. Additional beds would allow more intensive treatment of patients suffering from conditions known to increase the risk of a stillbirth.

An innovation during the year was the introduction of immunisation of children against poliomyelitis. Although complete immunity does not result and its duration has not yet been ascertained the procedure has been proved to offer a high degree of protection. The number of children immunised was limited only by the amount of vaccine available.

Another innovation also was made in the priority dental service for expectant and nursing mothers where the Principal Dental Officer was able to institute evening sessions early in the year. These have proved popular as many of the patients find it more convenient to attend at times when husbands are at home to take charge of the family.

A detailed report on the means for obtaining co-operation in Wolverhampton between the local authority's midwives and ante-natal clinics on the one hand, and the general practitioners on the other hand was submitted to the Cranbrook Committee which is reviewing the organisation of the maternity services in England and Wales. The corresponding committee for Scotland asked for

copies of the report which also was subsequently incorporated in the evidence submitted to the Cranbrook Committee by the Association of Municipal Corporations.

The Wolverhampton scheme is designed to secure that every patient confined at home books both a doctor and a midwife to supervise her pregnancy and confinement and it is successful in achieving it in over 99 per cent of cases. This results in a variety of possible attendants at the confinement; the booked midwife may attend alone; the relief midwife may attend alone; the booked midwife and the booked doctor may both attend; the the relief midwife and the booked doctor may both attend; the booked midwife and the relief doctor (a partner or assistant) may attend; the relief midwife and the relief doctor may both attend. In practice it is found that in over 90 per cent of cases the booked midwife or the relief midwife conducts the labour alone, so that it is important for the midwife and the relief midwife to have an intimate knowledge of the patient and also for there to be a regular means of communicating findings between the general practitioner and the midwife. It is with these ends in view that the Wolverhampton ante-natal clinics are conducted.

The scheme which has been in operation for over six years has become an accepted part of the medical services of the locality and continues to function smoothly. It meets with the approval of the patients who realise that it affords them many obvious advantages; the patient has an opportunity to get to know well both her booked midwife and the relief midwife; she can be sure that harmony exists between her doctor and her midwife; she is satisfied that all people likely to attend her confinement have full knowledge of her ante-natal condition; she knows that her midwife will notify her doctor when she goes into labour so that should she require his aid at any stage, he or his deputy will be available quickly; she has received education in pregnancy at the ante-natal clinic; she is already on friendly terms with the health visitor who will call to see her when the midwife's visits cease; and she is familiar with the clinic staff where she will subsequently attend with her infant.

The midwives find the scheme entirely satisfactory. The attendance of the patient at a clinic at a fixed day and time to book a midwife instead of her calling at the midwife's house is a help to both the midwife and the patient; the arrangement whereby all patients attending to book a midwife are directed to book their general practitioner has removed the less satisfactory features in the relationship between the midwife and the doctor; the midwife prefers to make her ante-natal examinations at the clinic where there are better facilities as well as more time for the midwife and the relief midwife to get to know the patient better.

The general practitioners' appreciation of the scheme is shown by the number of their patients for whom they seek the clinic's co-operation in providing ante-natal care. These patients represent three-quarters of all confinements of Wolverhampton residents although only half the confinements take place in the patient's home. The difference consists of patients who although intending to enter a hospital or nursing home are referred by their doctors to a clinic for co-operation in providing ante-natal care. The practitioner knows that any abnormality detected at a clinic will be brought to his notice immediately, that a midwife will visit without delay any patient who fails to keep an appointment at his surgery and that in domiciliary cases he will be notified as soon as his patient goes into labour.

The Home Nursing service attended approximately the same number of patients as in the previous year and paid about the same number of visits. There was a big drop in the number of tuberculous patients treated and in the number of visits paid to them; whereas in 1955 visits to tuberculous patients represented 31 per cent of all visits, in 1956 the proportion fell to 17 per cent. At the same time there was a substantial increase in the number of visits paid to medical cases (which do not include the tuberculous) due largely to the increasing demands made by the growing number of old people; since 1953 the proportion of patients attended by the home nursing service who were 65 years of age or over has increased from 44 per cent to 53 per cent, while in the same period the proportion of visits paid to persons in the same age group has increased from 28 per

cent to 68 per cent. A similar trend is seen in the work of the home helps ; the proportion of cases they attend who are classed as "chronic sick (including aged and infirm)" has increased from 20 per cent in 1950 to 58 per cent in 1956.

The growth of cremation as a method of disposing of the dead is reflected in the increasing use made of the municipal crematorium opened at Bushbury in 1954. Every cremation authority must have a medical referee and a deputy referee who, although nominated by the Authority, are appointed by the Home Secretary. The principal duties of the Referee are laid down in the Cremation Regulations 1930 and consist of satisfying himself that all the statutory requirements have been complied with, that the cause of death has been definitely ascertained and that there is no reason for any further inquiry or examination ; the Cremation Act 1902 prescribes the penalties for a breach of these regulations.

The satisfactory performance of these duties calls for support from an adequate organisation. The preliminary checking of certificates and their subsequent correction and amendment where necessary, the confirmation of the qualifications of the practitioners giving them and the interpretation of their writing calls for experienced and informed assistance with access to both the latest medical register and medical directory. A knowledge of the addresses and telephone numbers of health departments outside the area usually served by the crematorium enables speedy and confidential enquiries to be made when necessary about matters relating to patients who have died at a distance. The documents may be available for perusal by the referee only an hour or two before the time provisionally arranged for cremation, and therefore it is essential that he should have one or preferably two deputies, so that his clerical staff can readily secure their services at all times without delay.

As further investigations into the cause of death are virtually impossible after cremation, the referee should be in a position to detect in a certificate any unusual feature, however trivial at first sight, such as the occurrence of a death in an unregistered nursing home. His decision to require a post mortem examination must be uninfluenced by the knowledge that it puts the relatives to addi-

tional expense, and accordingly he must have funds available to meet the cost of the examination himself. He must not hesitate to make enquiries which may cast doubt on the accuracy of a medical certificate and which therefore are likely to be particularly unwelcome to a doctor if coming from a fellow practitioner. He is helped by having a personal knowledge of as many as possible of the doctors signing the certificates.

All these factors point to the Health Department as the suitable organisation to provide a medical referee in the person of the medical officer of health, with senior members of the medical staff as deputies. The office staff is available to assist with the clerical work and there are suitable office facilities both for the reception of people calling in connection with the certificates and for the making of telephonic enquiries either locally or at times in more distant parts of the country.

The Wolverhampton Council nominated the Medical Officer of Health as Medical Referee and two senior medical members of the Health Department staff as Deputy Referees, and all were appointed by the Home Secretary. In view of the number of appointments now being made throughout the country to municipal crematoria, it is worth recording that experience has confirmed that this arrangement facilitates the work of the referee.

There are some hypothetical difficulties in appointing the medical officer of health referee to a crematorium. The obligation to act as referee cannot be placed on the local authority as the Cremation Regulations make an individual doctor responsible for undertaking the specified duties, and if he commits a breach of the Regulations there are penalties which obviously cannot be imposed on the authority; the doctor, when acting as referee is neither the servant of the local authority nor of the central government, an arrangement which is very desirable if he is to be free from outside pressure; his work as referee imposes obligations upon him for which he can be punished in default, and much of the work may be concerned with persons not normally resident in his area. Accordingly he should be paid for these services; he provides them, however, while in the full time employment of his local authority.

In Wolverhampton, at the suggestion of the Medical Officer of Health, these circumstances were met by a charge being made in each case for the services of the referee, and these sums are credited to the Health Department. This arrangement is based on the fact that the Medical Officer of Health is a whole time officer of the local authority and his remuneration should be based on whole time service. It is also in accordance with the agreed conditions of service of chief officers in local government, which, with commendably few exceptions, have been honoured.

The charge is 10/- a case and this is the minimum necessary to compensate the department for the time of the staff engaged in the work, to meet the substantial cost of telephone calls, to pay the fees of the pathologist in cases where the referee calls for a post-mortem examination and to cover other incidental expenses.

Mr. Hartley, Chief Public Health Inspector, refers in his report to the progress made in slum clearance. With staff shortages in most branches of local government it is frequently necessary to decide which aspects of a particular field of work merit more than their normal share of the existing manpower. In Wolverhampton the clearance of the slums was regarded as the work which had first claim on the time of the available public health inspectors and there is no reason to doubt that the decision was right. The ambitious programme begun in 1954 of clearing the worst 2,500 houses in five years is likely to be completed within that time with immeasurable benefit to the physical, mental and moral welfare of thousands of people.

I wish to express my appreciation of the co-operation of the staff of the Health Department, and on their behalf I wish to thank the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their continued interest, encouragement and support.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

J. F. GALLOWAY,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION 1.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

A. Summary of Statistics.

1. Comparison of Statistics.

	1926.	1936.	1946.	1955.	1956.
Population	110,000	142,400	152,160	155,400	153,100
Area in acres	3,525	9,126	9,126	9,126	9,126
Inhabited houses	24,850	36,954	41,622	46,350	46,520
Birth Rate (live)	18.9	16.5	20.1	14.7	15.5
Death Rate	11.3	11.1	11.1	11.6	11.7
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births)	71.	62.	60.0	32.8	27.3
Still Birth Rate (per 1,000 total births)	—	39.5	40.	25.1	31.8
Maternal Mortality Rate (per 1,000 total births)	5.8	4.72	1.9	0.85	0.81
Cancer Death Rate	1.28	1.34	1.60	1.81	2.02
Tuberculosis Death Rate	1.08	0.78	0.61	0.17	0.12
Pulmonary only	0.97	0.71	0.49	0.14	0.11
Rateable Value	£621,782	£871,205	£1,007,869	£1,128,188	£1,137,550
Product of Penny Rate	£2,374	£3,410	£4,032	£4,575	£4,620

2. Extracts from Vital Statistics of 1956.

Area of Borough				9,126 acres.
Population (Registrar-General's mid-year estimate)				153,100.
Number of inhabited houses (31st March, 1956)				46,520.
Rateable value (31st March, 1956)				£1,137,550.
Sum represented by a penny rate				£4,620.
Live Births.	Male.	Female.	Total.	
Legitimate	1,165	1,072	2,237	
Illegitimate	73	67	140	
Total	1,238	1,139	2,377	15.5 per 1,000 population.
Still Births.				
Legitimate	34	38	72	
Illegitimate	3	3	6	
Total	37	41	78	0.5 per 1,000 population.
Deaths	939	852	1,791	31.8 per 1,000 total births.
Natural Increase.			586	11.7 per 1,000 population.
Infant Mortality.				
Legitimate	36	26	62	31.8 per 1,000 live Legitimate births.
Illegitimate	2	1	3	21.4 per 1,000 live Illegitimate births.
Total	38	27	65	27.3 per 1,000 live births.
Maternal Mortality.				
Ruptured ectopic pregnancy		1		
Cerebral Haemorrhage due to hypertension attributed to toxæmia with hypertension in previous pregnancies		1		
		2		
Deaths from Tuberculosis.				
Pulmonary	14	4	18	0.11 per 1,000 population.
Non-Pulmonary	1	—	1	0.01 per 1,000 population.
Total	15	4	19	0.12 per 1,000 population.
Deaths from Infectious Diseases.				
Gastro-enteritis	3	7	10	
Influenza	—	4	4	
Syphilitic disease	3	1	4	
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	1	2	
Scarlet Fever	1	—	1	
Pneumococcal Septicaemia	—	1	1	
Whooping Cough	—	1	1	
Post-encephalitic Parkinsons Disease	1	—	1	
Infectious Hepatitis	—	1	1	
Septicaemia following upon ulcerated right hand	—	1	1	
Deaths from Cancer.	170	139	309	2.02 per 1,000 population.
Area Comparability Factors.				
Births	0.97			
Deaths	1.13			

TABLE I.

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1956

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Net Deaths at the subjoined ages of Residents within the Borough.									
	Male. All ages.	Female. All ages.	Total. All ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5 yrs.	5 and under 15 yrs.	15 and under 25 yrs.	25 and under 45 yrs.	45 and under 65 yrs.	65 and under 75 yrs. 75 yrs.
All causes ...	939	852	1,791	65	6	3	12	91	442	440
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	14	4	18	—	—	—	1	5	8	4
Tuberculosis, other	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Syphilitic Disease	3	1	4	—	—	—	—	—	3	—
Whooping Cough	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	2	3	5	—	—	—	—	1	2	1
Cancer of Stomach	38	21	59	—	—	—	—	4	26	11
Cancer of Lung, Bronchus	60	6	66	—	—	—	—	6	39	16
Cancer of Breast	—	28	28	—	—	—	—	5	13	5
Cancer of Uterus	—	15	15	—	—	—	—	2	9	3
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	69	68	137	—	—	1	—	12	41	46
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	3	1	4	—	—	—	—	—	2	1
Diabetes	7	9	16	—	—	—	—	2	6	4
Vascular lesions of Nervous system	92	136	228	—	—	1	—	3	42	78
Coronary Disease, Angina	119	65	184	—	—	—	—	2	60	55
Hypertension with Heart Disease	22	17	39	—	—	—	—	1	11	14
Other Heart Disease	105	152	257	—	—	—	—	9	36	61
Other circulatory disease	31	42	73	—	—	—	—	3	16	22
Influenza	—	4	4	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Pneumonia	58	30	88	9	2	—	—	7	25	12
Bronchitis	77	25	102	—	—	—	—	1	25	39
Other diseases of respiratory system	12	10	22	—	—	—	1	1	7	2
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	21	6	27	—	—	—	—	2	11	5
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	3	7	10	1	1	1	—	1	1	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	8	1	9	—	—	—	1	—	4	3
Hyperplasia of prostate	15	—	15	—	—	—	—	—	1	4
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Congenital Malformations	9	4	13	9	—	—	2	1	—	—
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	121	147	268	40	2	—	4	7	33	41
Motor Vehicle accidents	10	5	15	—	1	—	2	4	4	2
Suicide	8	10	18	—	—	—	—	4	10	3
All other accidents	29	30	59	5	—	—	—	3	5	6
Homicide and operations of war	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	1

B. General Statistics.

1. Population.

The Registrar General's estimate of the population at the 30th June, 1956 was 153,100, a decline of 2,300 in a year.

2. Inhabited Houses.

At 31st March, 1956, there were 46,520, an increase of 170 in a year. The types of premises, their numbers and the increase or decrease, if any, in a year were :—

Domestic	44,510 (+ 182)
House shops	1,652 (— 12)
Off-licences	52
Unlicensed hotels and boarding houses	8
Licensed premises	298

During the year 334 additional dwellings were brought into rate, but 164 were taken out of assessment because of demolition or other reasons, leaving a net increase of only 170 houses.

3. Live Births.

Live births consisted of 1,238 males and 1,139 females, a total of 2,377 (which is 88 more than in 1955) giving a birth rate of 15.5 per thousand population; when the area comparability factor of 0.97 is applied, this is reduced to 15.03 per thousand. The birth rate for the whole of England and Wales was 15.7.

Of these 2,377 births, 140 or 5.9% were illegitimate. Last year the proportion was 6.3%

4. Still Births.

These numbered 78 (of which 6 were illegitimate). These 78 represented rates of 0.5 per thousand population and 31.8 per thousand total births (live and still). The still birth rate for the whole of England and Wales was 23.0 per thousand total births.

5. Marriages.

The number of marriages registered in Wolverhampton during the year was 1,542 representing a marriage rate of 20.01 per thousand population. The rate for England and Wales was 15.8 per thousand population.

6. Deaths.

The number of deaths, comprising 939 males and 852 females was 1,791 giving a death rate of 11.7 per thousand population ; when the area comparability factor of 1.13 is applied this rate is increased to 13.2 per 1,000. The death rate for England and Wales was 11.7.

The principal causes of death were :—

(a) Diseases of the Heart and Circulation.	
Vascular lesions of nervous system	228
Coronary disease, angina	184
Hypertension with heart disease	39
Other heart disease	257
Other circulatory disease	73
	781 (43.6% of all deaths)
(b) Cancer	309 (17.3% of all deaths)
(c) Diseases of Respiratory Tract.	
Pneumonia	88
Bronchitis	102
Other respiratory diseases	22
	212 (11.8% of all deaths)
(d) Suicide and Violence.	
Suicide	18
Motor Vehicle accidents	15
All other accidents	59
Homicide and operations of war	2
	94 (5.2% of all deaths)
(e) Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	27 (1.5% of all deaths)
(f) Tuberculosis, all forms	19 (1.1% of all deaths)
(g) Diabetes	16 (0.9% of all deaths)

7. Infant Mortality.

There were 3 deaths of illegitimate infants under one year of age (or 21.4 per thousand illegitimate live births) and 62 deaths of legitimate infants (or 31.8 per thousand legitimate live births). The total of 65 infant deaths represents an infant mortality rate of 27.3 per thousand live births. The rate for the whole of England and Wales was 23.8 per thousand live births.

8. Maternal Mortality.

Two maternal deaths occurred, one from a ruptured ectopic pregnancy in a patient of 37 and the other in a patient of 43 from cerebral haemorrhage due to hypertension attributed apparently to toxæmia with hypertension in pregnancies 9 and 13 years previously. As there were 2,455 live and still births, those two deaths gave a maternal mortality rate of 0.81 per thousand total (live and still) births. The rate for England and Wales was 0.56 per thousand total (live and still) births.

9. Deaths from Tuberculosis.

There were 19 deaths from tuberculosis representing a tuberculosis death rate of 0.12 per thousand population, the lowest yet recorded in Wolverhampton. The previous lowest rates were 0.25 in 1952 and 0.17 in 1955. The rate for the whole of England and Wales for 1956 was 0.12.

Respiratory tuberculosis was responsible for 18 of these deaths ; 14 of the deaths were males and of these 11 were aged 45 or more ; the four females who died were aged 24, 25, 41 and 47 years.

10. Deaths from Infectious and Notifiable Diseases.

There were 88 deaths from pneumonia (representing 0.51 per thousand population) but only a very small proportion of these deaths occurred among the 151 cases of acute pneumonia which were notified.

There were 4 deaths from influenza (0.03 per thousand population), 4 from syphilitic disease (0.03 per thousand population), 2 from acute poliomyelitis (0.01 per thousand population), 2 from

septicaemia (0.01 per thousand population), 1 from scarlet fever (0.006 per thousand population), 1 from infective hepatitis, 1 from whooping cough and 1 from post-encephalitic parkinsonism.

There were 10 deaths (0.06 per thousand population) from gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea, of which 1 (0.42 per thousand live births) was under one year of age.

11. Deaths from Cancer.

There were 309 deaths from cancer, giving a death rate of 2.02 per thousand population. Of these deaths, 170 occurred in males and the more frequent sites of the disease were lungs and bronchi (60 cases), stomach (38 cases), large intestine (14), oesophagus (9), rectum (8), pancreas (8), bladder (6) and prostate (5).

Among the 139 deaths which occurred in females the most frequent sites of the disease were the breast (28 cases), stomach (21 cases), large intestine (15), uterus (15), rectum (10), pancreas (8), ovary (8), lungs and bronchi (6) and skin (5).

12. Sickness Claims.

New claims for sickness benefit (excluding industrial disease or industrial injury claims) submitted to the Wolverhampton office of the Ministry of National Insurance during 1956 numbered 30,786 with a weekly average of 592 ; the most claims in any one week were 1,113, 994 and 996, which occurred in the weeks ending January 10th, January 17th and February 7th ; the fewest claims in any one week were 342, 205 and 377, which occurred in the weeks ending 31st July, 7th August and 14th August. The weekly average of 592 was lower than that of 1955 which was 618.

13. Cremation.

A total of 1,151 cremations took place, an increase of 174 on last year's figure. The total included 505 persons resident in Wolverhampton, who accordingly constituted 43.9% of those cremated.

Post-mortem examinations were carried out in 130 cases ; 123 were at the request of coroners, and of these, 81 were performed by expert pathologists. The 7 post-mortem examinations made at the request of the medical referee were all performed by expert pathologists.

On no occasion was cremation refused.

C. Natural and Social Conditions.

1. Situation.

Wolverhampton stands astride a ridge which is the watershed between the Severn and Trent ; to the east the land slopes down to and merges with the industrial area of the Black Country, and to the west it spreads out to the Shropshire plain. The highest points in the borough, about 600 feet above sea level, are in Bushbury to the north and Upper Penn to the south ; the lowest points, less than 350 feet above sea level, are in the vicinity of the airport and racecourse.

2. Meteorology.

Rainfall recorded at the West Park amounted to 24.93 inches, which is only 0.3 inches more than the total for the previous year and three inches below the average rainfall calculated over the past sixty years.

Rain fell on 184 days, and the highest rainfall recorded for one day was 0.59 inches on the 26th April. The wettest month was August with 4.53 inches and the amounts recorded for January, June, July, September and December were 3.03, 2.43, 2.76, 2.53 and 2.77 inches respectively ; thus three quarters of the year's rainfall fell in the six months mentioned. In July and August, a total of 7.29 inches was recorded whereas only 1.47 inches fell in the corresponding months of 1955. The driest month was February with 0.63 inches, and only 0.70 inches was recorded during May, which in the previous year had the greatest monthly rainfall with 4.07 inches. The rainfall for November was also 0.70 inches and it was the driest eleventh month since 1904. Snow fell on various days during January and February, and also on Christmas Day.

The lowest recorded temperatures for January and February were 14.5° and 11.0° respectively. The February figure was the lowest temperature recorded during the year. The hottest day was the 27th July, with a shade temperature of 78.0° , whilst in the middle of June a reading of 77.0° was recorded.

3. Water Supply.

The Wolverhampton Corporation Water Undertaking, which supplies a population of approximately 261,800 in Wolverhampton and some surrounding districts, obtains its water from several sources. These and the daily average million gallons taken from them in 1956 are :—

Cosford Works—river	1.470
Cosford Works—well	2.121
Tettenhall Works—boreholes	0.922
Dimmingsdale Works—boreholes	2.408
Hilton Works—boreholes	3.104
Stableford Works—boreholes	1.162
Goldthorn Hill Works—well	0.014
Purchased	0.208

The total hardness, in parts per million, varies from 211 in the Cosford well water to 306 in the water from the Tettenhall Works. The water from the new Stableford Works is considerably harder, being 635 parts per million but is blended with other supplies.

The amounts of fluorine present in various sources of supply were determined in 1955 and the figures of fluorides as parts per million of fluorine are as follows :—

Cosford—River Worfe—raw water	0.08
Cosford—River Worfe—filtered water	0.11
Cosford—well	0.08
Dimmingsdale No. 3 Borehole	0.06
Hilton No. 2 Borehole	0.04
Tettenhall No. 1 Borehole	0.04
No. 2 Borehole	0.03
Stableford No. 1 Borehole	0.04
No. 4 Borehole	0.06

Of 836 samples of water subjected to bacteriological examination 808 or 96.6% contained no coliform organisms per 100 ml.

4. Occupations.

The principal occupations arranged according to the numbers employed are general metals (including manufacture and secondary processes and products); mechanical engineering; professional services; rubber tyres; electrical engineering; gas, water and electricity; public administration (national and local government); personal services (domestic service, hotels and restaurants) and textiles (rayon).

5. Unemployment.

Throughout 1956 unemployment has been at a very low level. It is estimated that the average number of persons who registered as unemployed represented about 0.7% of the total employees, which is lower than the national average of approximately 1.1%.

SECTION II.

HEALTH SERVICES OF THE AREA.

A. Hospital, Specialist and Allied Services.

1. Hospitals.

The Wolverhampton Hospital Management Committee is responsible for institutions and clinics in an area extending from Wolverhampton to Bridgnorth, Much Wenlock, Broseley and Shifnal with an estimated population of 355,000. The institutions contain 2,058 beds; of these 1,770 are in Wolverhampton, including 400 beds in "The Poplars," where the Management Committee provides serviced accommodation for the use of aged non-sick people, and 80 beds in the Reception Centre which also are serviced by the Hospital Management Committee. Both "The Poplars" and the Reception Centre are adjacent to New Cross Hospital.

The following 1,290 hospital beds are in Wolverhampton :—

Royal Hospital	310 beds
Children's Hospital, Penn	30 „
Women's Hospital and Bath Road Annexe	85 „
Queen Victoria Nursing Institution	43 „
Women's Convalescent Hospital, Penn	13 „
Eye Infirmary	100 „
Isolation Hospital	66 „
The Beeches Maternity Home	16 „
New Cross Hospital	627 „

In addition to providing hospital facilities for Wolverhampton, these beds meet almost all the hospital requirements of the Borough of Bilston and the Urban Districts of Tettenhall, Wednesfield and Willenhall. They also constitute the main provision of hospital accommodation for the Urban Districts of Coseley and the Rural District of Seisdon.

2. Sanatoria.

The Isolation Hospital contains 54 beds for tuberculous patients and only 12 beds now are allocated to the treatment of infectious diseases. There is no hospital accommodation in the area built specially for the treatment of tuberculosis, and pulmonary cases usually receive treatment at Prestwood, Kinver or Grounds-low ; cases requiring orthopaedic treatment usually obtain it at Oswestry.

3. Chest Clinic.

The centrally situated Bell Street Clinic provides facilities for Wolverhampton and district. The static headquarters of the Wolverhampton Mass Radiography Unit is at New Cross Hospital, and here general practitioners have free access to X-ray facilities for the radiological exclusion of pulmonary tuberculosis without the need for appointments.

4. Venereal Diseases Clinic.

This is situated at the Royal Hospital, Wolverhampton, and serves both Wolverhampton and the surrounding district.

5. Nursing Homes.

One private maternity home contains 16 beds and two private nursing homes contain 10 beds.

6. Bacteriology.

Laboratory facilities are available at the Public Health Laboratory, Stafford, and at the Pathological Laboratory of the Royal Hospital, Wolverhampton. Most specimens must still be sent to Stafford at considerable inconvenience because the establishment of a much needed Public Health Laboratory in Wolverhampton continues to be delayed.

B. Local Executive Council Services.

1. General Medical Service.

At the end of March, 1957 there were 157,686 people living in Wolverhampton on doctor's lists representing 103% of the population! Their medical care was undertaken by 116 principal and 11 assistant medical practitioners, 67 of whom live within, and practice from 60 surgeries within, the borough.

The cost of this service for the year ending 31st March, 1957 was £202,797 equivalent to 26/6d. a head of the population numbering 153,052 living in Wolverhampton.

2. Pharmaceutical Service.

At the end of March, 1957 there were under contract and in the Borough of Wolverhampton 45 pharmacies and 8 surgical appliance suppliers. The Executive Council tests the dispensing of all these contractors over a period of two years, and in the year under review 22 drug tests and 5 appliance tests were made.

The cost of this service to the Executive Council for the year ending 31st March, 1957 was £179,516 and to the patients £30,444, being equivalent to 23/5d. and 4/-d. a head per annum respectively.

3. Dental Service.

At the end of March, 1957 there were 38 principal and 2 assistant dental practitioners on the Executive Council's list. The cost to the Executive Council for the year ending 31st March, 1957 was £130,871 and to the patients £40,142, being equivalent to 17/1d. and 5/3d. a head per annum respectively.

4. Ophthalmic Service.

The service enables the patient to have his sight tested by either an ophthalmic medical practitioner or an ophthalmic optician and then, if glasses are necessary, to have them provided either by an ophthalmic optician or a dispensing optician. There were at the end of March, 1957 under contract with the Executive Council's ophthalmic services 9 principal ophthalmic medical practitioners, 12 ophthalmic opticians and 10 dispensing opticians. Dr. Jevons, School Medical Officer, is one of the ophthalmic medical practitioners and prescribes spectacles for school children who require them.

The cost to the Executive Council for the year ending March 31st 1957 was £41,418 and to the patients £27,307, being equivalent to 5/5d. and 3/7d. a head per annum respectively.

5. General.

The cost of administration for the year ending 31st March, 1957 was £9,144, equivalent to 1/2d. a head of the population. The total cost of the services therefore was £563,746, equivalent to £3 13s. 8d. a head of the population. In addition, the direct contributions made by the patients was £97,893, equivalent to 12/10d. a head of the population.

C. Local Authority Health Service.

1. Care of Mothers and Children.

(a) Births and Still Births.

There were 2,377 infants born alive during the year to parents normally resident in Wolverhampton ; of these infants, 1,181 were born at home and 1,196 in institutions. The still births numbered 78 and of these, 23 were born at home and 55 in institutions.

The percentages of these births which took place at home in 1953, 1954, 1955 and 1956 were 53, 52, 49 and 49 respectively.

(b) Ante-natal Facilities.

At the end of the year, 9 ante-natal clinics were conducted each week by medical officers (all of whom are full-time members of the Health Department), with the assistance of midwives. There is no specialist ante-natal clinic, but cases requiring a second opinion are referred through the general practitioner to the consultant clinics at New Cross Hospital or the Women's Hospital. Blood examinations for the rhesus factor and the Wassermann test are carried out at the ante-natal clinics on all expectant mothers. Instruction in mothercraft is given at the infant welfare centres, and to a lesser extent at the ante-natal clinics.

Unmarried mothers are interviewed by the superintendent health visitor and given any help which may be required, including if necessary admission ante-natally to a mother and baby home. Arrangements are made with the medical officers of the Health Department for blood tests to be done, and the ante-natal care of the patient is undertaken either by the clinic or by her own doctor.

Maternity outfits are issued at all clinics to patients on the presentation of a note from either the general practitioner or the domiciliary midwife. In addition, each midwife retains two maternity outfits in her own home for use in an emergency, and these are renewed as they are used. As 1,278 outfits were issued in 1956 all patients confined at home appear to have received them.

Ante-natal clinics, at which midwives are present, were attended by 2,348 women, of whom 1,882, were new cases, and an average of 3.7 visits was made by each patient. These new cases far exceed the number of domiciliary confinements in the borough and are equivalent to 77% of all confinements occurring in the borough, both domiciliary and institutional.

(c) Post-natal Care.

A weekly post-natal clinic, conducted by a hospital specialist is provided by the Health Department at Lowe Street welfare centre ; in addition, post-natal examinations are carried out by the general practitioners and at the hospital post-natal clinics. Only a small proportion of mothers confined at home subsequently attend the Lowe Street clinic ; new cases attending in 1956 were 62 compared with 60 the previous year. The number of attendances was 155.

(d) Family Planning Clinic.

Married women referred by medical practitioners are admitted to the clinic held weekly at Lowe Street welfare centre where they are advised on methods of birth control. In the years 1954, 1955 and 1956 women attending for the first time numbered 77, 68 and 66 respectively and the corresponding number of attendances were 693, 745 and 810.

(e) Child Welfare.

Each week 13 sessions are held for infants and toddlers at 8 centres. Immunisation against diphtheria and whooping cough, vaccination against smallpox and tuberculin patch tests are carried out at these clinics. Approximately 66 per cent of children under one year of age in the town attended them.

Minor ailments of children under school age are treated by arrangement at the minor ailment clinics of the School Health Service, and in addition, special paediatric, orthopaedic and ultra-violet light clinics are held jointly with that Service.

The paediatric clinic, to which children in need of specialist advice may be referred from the infant welfare centres, is held fortnightly.

The orthopaedic clinic, to which children with minor deformities are sent from the welfare centres, is held weekly. After examination by the orthopaedic surgeon, the prescribed treatment

is carried out by a physiotherapist who attends the clinic daily. During the year 430 attendances were made by 232 children of whom 125 were attending for the first time.

The ultra-violet light clinic is held twice weekly and children suffering from conditions likely to benefit are referred to it from the welfare centres. During the year 43 cases made 184 attendances.

The arrangement whereby the Wolverhampton H.M.C. staffed the orthopaedic and ultra-violet light clinics was discontinued in November owing to shortage of staff at the hospital, and from that date a part-time physiotherapist was employed by this department.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRES, 1956.

	Ford-houses	Lea Road	Lowe Street	Park Lane	St. Oswalds	St. Martins	Ward Street	Masefield Road	Totals
INFANTS.									
No. of sessions ...	100	98	48	99	103	51	101	49	649
New cases under 1 year ...	244	318	169	279	160	100	198	111	1,579
Attendances under 1 year ...	2,332	4,051	1,373	2,537	1,682	858	1,830	923	15,586
Attendances over 1 year ...	781	602	355	429	436	392	572	387	3,954
Total Attendances ...	3,113	4,653	1,728	2,966	2,118	1,250	2,402	1,310	19,540
Average attendances per session ...	31.1	47.5	36	30	20.6	24.5	23.8	26.7	30.1
ANTE-NATAL.									
No. of sessions ...	49	103	50	48	51	51	52	49	453
New cases ...	238	323	236	301	171	135	293	185	1,882
Total Attendances ...	1,196	1,459	1,023	1,227	871	754	1,371	808	8,709
Average attendances per session ...	24.4	14.2	20.5	25.6	17.1	14.8	26.4	16.5	19.2

POST-NATAL CLINIC.

(Lowe Street)	
No. of Sessions ...	50
New Cases ...	62
Total Attendances ...	155
Average per session ...	3.1

FAMILY PLANNING CLINIC.

(Lowe Street)	
No. of Sessions ...	49
New Cases ...	66
Total Attendances ...	810
Average per session ...	16.5

(f) Infant Deaths.

There were 71 deaths of children under 5 years ; of these, 65 failed to survive the first year, and of these 49 failed to survive the first month ; 44 died in the first week. The causes of death are given below.

Cause of Death.	Days.	Weeks.	Months.	Years.
	0—7	1—4	1—12	1—4
Whooping Cough	—	—	1	—
Pneumonia	2	2	5	2
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	—	1	1
Congenital malformations ...	6	1	2	—
Motor Vehicle Accidents ...	—	—	—	1
Asphyxia due to inhalation of vomit	—	—	1	—
Asphyxia due to smothering whilst asleep in cot ...	—	1	3	—
Rupture of Haemangioma of larynx	—	—	—	1
Intracranial and spinal injury at birth without immaturity ...	3	—	—	—
Intracranial and spinal injury at birth with immaturity ...	1	—	—	—
Post-natal asphyxia and atelectasis without immaturity ...	6	—	—	—
Post-natal asphyxia and atelectasis with immaturity	7	—	—	—
Prematurity, placental haemorrhage secondary to maternal ante-partum haemorrhage ...	1	—	—	—
Incomplete expansion of lungs, prematurity, suprarenal haemorrhage	1	—	—	—
Haemorrhagic disease of newborn, without immaturity ...	1	—	—	—
Thrombocytopenic purpura ...	1	—	—	—
Marasmus and inability to absorb food	—	—	1	—
Immaturity	14	—	—	—
Cerebral anoxaemia	1	—	—	—
Persistent vomiting	—	1	—	—
Mongolism	—	—	1	—
Intussusception	—	—	1	—
Cerebral oedema, epilepsy	—	—	—	1
Totals	44	5	16	6

(g) Premature Infants.

The premature baby nurse visits all premature infants in their homes, the frequency of her visits depending on their weight and condition ; special cots and equipment are lent from the Health Department by the premature baby nurse.

All infants weighing $5\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. or less born at home or in nursing homes are notified to the premature baby nurse on the day of birth. General practitioners usually arrange for babies weighing less than 4 lbs. to be admitted to a premature baby unit at the Women's Hospital, Hallam Hospital (West Bromwich) or Sorrento Hospital (Birmingham), and special equipment is kept at the ambulance depot for use in transporting them.

Premature babies born at New Cross or the Women's Hospital are seen by the premature baby nurse who subsequently visits them at home after discharge. The follow-up clinic for premature babies held at the Women's Hospital is attended by the premature baby nurse.

During the year, 161 babies were born alive weighing $5\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. or less to mothers normally resident in Wolverhampton, and 133 of them survived 28 days. Of these 161 babies, 46 were born at home, 3 in private nursing homes and 112 in National Health Service Hospitals ; 2 of the babies born at home were transferred subsequently to hospital and the remaining 44 were nursed entirely at home.

The birth weight (column I) of all premature babies born alive at home (column II), the number of these nursed entirely at home (column III) and the number surviving 28 days (column IV) are shown in the following table :—

I.	II.	III.	IV.
3 lbs. 4 ozs. or less	4	3	—
3 lbs. 4 ozs.—4 lbs. 6 ozs.	13	13	12
4 lbs. 6 ozs.—4 lbs. 15 ozs.	3	2	2
4 lbs. 15 ozs.—5 lbs. 8 ozs.	26	26	25
	46	44	39

39 of the 44 babies nursed entirely at home and all 3 babies born in private nursing homes survived the first 28 days.

The premature baby nurse paid 789 visits to babies born at home and to babies discharged from hospital or nursing homes.

No case of retrolental fibroplasia was notified.

(h) Illegitimate Children.

There were 140 illegitimate children born alive during the year; there were also 6 illegitimate still births. This total of 146 illegitimate live and still births represents 5.9 per cent of all live and still births. The local health authority continues to make grants to the Legge Home and the Hay Home of £246 and £50 respectively. When required, patients are admitted to Diocesan Moral Welfare or Roman Catholic or Salvation Army Homes; necessary financial assistance is provided to meet the charges.

During the year the help of the Health Department was sought in 75 cases (64 being new cases) and 36 of them were accommodated in mother and baby homes.

(i) Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

One case was notified. The child was born in hospital, transferred to an eye hospital, and subsequently recovered.

(j) Supply of Welfare Foods.

Dispensaries are attached to Lea Road and Park Lane clinics at opposite ends of the town where proprietary brands of infant foods and nutrients are obtainable if they have been prescribed.

At the end of the year the distribution centres for Welfare Foods in Wolverhampton comprised the main centre at the Health Department, all clinics, 10 shops in various parts of the borough where the proprietors granted facilities, and the Community Centre at Low Hill.

At the end of the year the staff consisted of the organiser, one assistant and 5 part-time workers.

Below is a summary of issues made during each quarter of the year :—

Quarter ended.	National dried milk. Tins.	Cod liver oil. Bottles	A. & D. tables. Packets.	Orange juice. Bottles.	Total.
31.3.56	26,394	4,953	2,228	25,981	59,556
30.6.56	25,430	4,083	2,425	31,514	63,452
30.9.56	26,686	3,917	2,216	28,629	61,448
31.12.56	25,799	4,816	2,018	24,695	57,328
Total for 1956	104,309	17,769	8,887	110,819	241,784
Total for 1955	105,630	18,591	7,798	103,172	235,191

(k) Dental Care.

The Principal Dental Officer reports that during the year the priority dental service for expectant and nursing mothers and pre-school children continued to be provided by the authority's dental officers devoting a part of their time to these patients. The equivalent of 320 half days was spent on their work, showing a small increase on the previous year. Since March additional sessions were worked in the evenings so as to obtain the maximum use of the available accommodation and manpower. The institution of these clinics at a later hour than usual proved popular with many of the patients as they often found it more convenient to attend at a time when their husbands were at home to take charge of the family. About a quarter of all the treatment was given at these sessions and there were fewer broken appointments.

The number of maternity patients seeking examination and treatment increased considerably over the previous year and the demand became so heavy during November that no further patients were accepted for the remainder of the year ; 442 patients were treated compared with 311 in the previous year.

The reluctance of many of these patients to accept conservative forms of treatment continues and there was only a small increase in the numbers of fillings and scalings. On the other hand the number of teeth extracted increased by 448 and the number of dentures fitted by 75.

The service for pre-school children is provided on request and although all forms of treatment are available the demand is in the main for the relief of toothache. The number treated fell from 657 in 1955 to 593 in 1956.

The following were provided with dental care :—

	Examined.	Needing treatment.	Treated.	Made dentally fit.
Mothers	489	483	442	148
Children	598	589	593	5

The following are the forms of dental treatment which were provided :—

	Mothers.	Children.
Scaling and gum treatment	137	—
Fillings	269	22
Silver nitrate treatment	12	16
Extractions	1,813	1,276
General anaesthetics	253	591
Dentures provided :—		
Full upper or lower	129	—
Partial upper or lower	76	—
Radiographs	50	1

(I) Day Nurseries.

The day nurseries at Bushbury Road and Birmingham Road have accommodation for 75 children and 40 children respectively, and both provide facilities for the training of nursery students for the certificate of the Nursery Nurses Examination Board.

The charge is 2/- each day for children in the priority group, which includes the children of widows, widowers, unmarried mothers and separated or divorced parents, and children from

families in which the mother is ill, the father unemployed, incapacitated or in the Forces. The charges for other cases, which are admitted with the consent of the Health Committee vary with the means of the parents, with a maximum of 8/- a day.

The following is a summary of the attendances at the nurseries during the year.

	Bushbury Road.	Birmingham Road.
Number of days open	252	252
Attendances under 2 years	3,532	2,791
Attendances 2—5 years	7,028	4,860
Average daily attendance under 2 years	14.0	11.1
Average daily attendance 2—5 years	27.9	19.3

The average daily attendances of all ages at Bushbury Road was 41.9 and at Birmingham Road was 30.4. In the previous year these figures were 44.4 and 28.9 respectively.

2. Midwifery.

(a) General Provisions.

During the year, 3,788 confinements took place in the borough; of these 1,212 were conducted in the mother's home, 2,264 were conducted in the Hospital Management Committee's institutions and 312 in private nursing homes.

Notifications of intention to practise midwifery in Wolverhampton were received from :—

(i) Midwives in Management Committee's institutions	30
(ii) Municipal Midwives	20
(iii) Maternity Nurses (hospital)	7
(iv) Midwives (private nursing homes)	11

Supervision is exercised by the Senior Medical Officer for Maternity and Child Welfare in her capacity as Medical Supervisor, and by the Non-medical Supervisor of Midwives.

(b) Municipal Midwives.

At the end of the year the staff consisted of the non-medical supervisor, 19 midwives and a premature baby nurse. They attended 1,104 cases as midwives, and 108 cases as maternity nurses, the doctor being present at 8.9% of deliveries. Altogether 30,379 visits were paid by the midwives to women delivered at home including 7,348 ante-natal visits: in addition 798 patients discharged from hospital before the fourteenth day received 2,195 visits during the remainder of the lying-in period. Medical aid was sought for 24 patients during pregnancy, 48 patients during labour and 49 patients immediately after the birth; medical aid was sought for 31 infants, in 19 cases immediately after birth.

All municipal midwives administer gas and air analgesia. The 'Minnit' apparatus is used and it is transported to the patient's home and subsequently collected after use by the Central Ambulance depot; the apparatus is serviced quarterly by the British Oxygen Company. Patients receive instruction in its use at the ante-natal clinics and each midwife carries a face-piece for the machine in her delivery bag. Five sets of apparatus for administering trilene were in use at the end of the year. Gas and air was administered to 502 patients (i.e. 41% of domiciliary confinements) and pethidine was given to 560 patients (i.e. 46% of domiciliary confinements); in addition 209 patients had trilene given by the midwife and 50 by their doctor, a total of 259 (i.e. 21% of domiciliary confinements).

Municipal Midwives deliver about 5 cases each month and they attend the ante-natal clinics in their area to book and examine their patients, so that each patient meets not only the midwife who probably will look after her but also the relief midwife: in addition the midwife visits the patient's home at least twice, once early in pregnancy to ascertain that it is suitable for a domiciliary confinement and again late in pregnancy to confirm that adequate arrangements have been made. Expectant mothers seeking admis-

sion to hospital on social grounds apply to the Health Department and subsequently they are visited in their homes by a midwife who reports on the conditions and circumstances ; the reports are considered by the medical and non-medical supervisors who then select those most urgently needing the available hospital accommodation.

The physiotherapist holds three relaxation classes each week, two at Lea Road Clinic, and one at Ward Street Clinic : 356 mothers made 2,343 attendances.

Chest X-ray examinations carried out by the Mass Radiography Unit are available for all expectant mothers.

Two midwives attended refresher courses during the year. No arrangements exist in Wolverhampton for providing pupil midwives with Part II training but the hospitals and the local authority still hope to be able to provide this in the near future.

3. Health Visiting.

The establishment is a Superintendent and 16 Health Visitors. At the end of the year the staff consisted of a Superintendent, 14 health visitors and 1 clinic nurse. One health visitor and the nurse are attached to the chest clinic and devote their entire time to the patients attending the clinic and their contacts. In addition to instructing and advising mothers at the ante-natal and infant welfare sessions and visiting expectant and nursing mothers and children under school age the health visitors undertake many other duties. These include visiting cases of infectious diseases, patients discharged from hospital and in need of after-care and elderly people who may require domestic and other assistance in the home. They stress the importance of immunisation and vaccination, they co-operate with hospitals and general practitioners by furnishing relevant details of home conditions and ensuring that advice and treatment are carried out . Particular attention is given to families presenting a social problem.

Details of the visits during 1956 are given below :—

Expectant mothers	108
Children under one	9,738
Children aged one and under two	6,484
Children aged two and under five	11,077
Tuberculous households	2,707
Other cases	2,110
Total visits	32,224

In addition health visitors attended 2,576 half day sessions at the clinics.

During the course of the year, the health visitors entered 20,016 households (i.e. 43% of all households in the borough), and they visited 10,723 children under five years of age.

Four health visitors attended refresher courses during the year.

A health visitor is present at the Royal Hospital each week when the paediatrician does a ward round.

4. Home Nursing.

At the end of the year, the staff consisted of a superintendent, 10 full-time state registered nurses, 3 full-time state enrolled assistant nurses and 5 part-time state registered nurses.

All general practitioners in the area use the service ; they either telephone to the superintendent informing her of the patients' requirements, or leave a note with relatives instructing them to deliver it to the Health Department. When a patient about to be discharged from hospital will require nursing treatment after returning home, the hospital almoner usually notifies the home nurses in advance. The number of new cases attended by the

nurses was identical with, and the total number of visits 941 less than, the previous year. A summary of the work of the nurses is given below :—

Cases on Register at 1.1.56.	New Cases.	Total Visits.	Cases on Register at 31.12.56.
193	1,475	41,366	226

The nature and number of the cases and the number of visits they received were :—

Cases.	Number.	Visits.
Medical	1,126	27,382
Surgical	226	6,232
Infectious	10	163
Tuberculous	126	7,011
Maternity (Complications)	2	7
Other	178	571
Total	1,668	41,366

Children under 5 years of age (4% of all patients) received 1% of all visits with an average of 5 visits a case, patients between 5 and 64 years of age (43% of all patients) received 31% of all visits with an average of 18 visits a case, and patients of 65 and over (53% of all patients) received 68% of all visits with an average of 32 visits a case.

Visits to tuberculous patients have varied considerably in recent years and fell sharply to an average of 19 a day which is almost half of what they were in the previous year.

5. Vaccination and Immunisation.

(a) Vaccination against Smallpox.

During the year 834 persons were vaccinated and 75 re-vaccinated. Of those vaccinated, 759 were under one year old, and of those re-vaccinated 68 were 15 years old and over. Medical officers of the local authority carried out 378 of the 909 vaccinations and re-vaccinations.

There were 2,377 infants born alive during the year, and the 759 vaccinations under one year old represent 31.9% of these births.

(b) Immunisation against Diphtheria.

A total of 2,131 children were immunised against diphtheria during the year. Private practitioners carried out 716 of the immunisations and 1,415 were done by medical officers of the local authority in schools, clinics and day nurseries. In addition, reinforcing doses were given to 2,716 children, mostly in schools. The estimated percentage of the child population immunised against diphtheria is :—

(i) under one year old	47%
(ii) 1—4 years old	49%
(iii) 5—14 years old	74%

(c) Immunisation against Whooping Cough.

This was available during the year at all clinics where 696 children received it. A further 341 children are known to have been immunised by general practitioners.

(d) B.C.G. Vaccination.

During the year B.C.G. vaccination against tuberculosis was offered to all 13 year old pupils in grammar schools and modern schools. Consent forms were issued to the parents of 2,753 children ; there were 1,951 acceptances (71%), and of those, 1,649 were X-rayed and 1,320 vaccinated.

Those not vaccinated numbered 631 and comprised :—

contacts	108
absentees	154
unsuitable	9
positive Mantoux tests	297
not read	63
	631

At Dr. Aspin's request the contacts were all X-rayed and Mantoux tested prior to being referred to the Chest Clinic, where B.C.G. vaccination was given under his supervision to suitable cases.

Absentees sessions were held at the beginning and end of the spring term ; 87 absentees from 1955 and 32 from the beginning of 1956 were vaccinated. The absentees from the autumn term were given appointments for 1957.

In connection with B.C.G. vaccination, 1,649 pupils aged 13 years had X-ray examinations and 12 children were found to have chest lesions.

Of 142 children under 5 years old skin tested at the Royal Hospital, 116 were found to be negative, and received vaccination.

(e) Poliomyelitis Vaccination.

A scheme for offering vaccination against poliomyelitis to all children born in the years 1947 to 1954 inclusive was introduced in the Spring.

A total of 3,969 children (2,020 males and 1,949 females) registered for vaccination, and at the end of the year 349 children (178 male and 171 female) had been fully vaccinated and 365 children (183 males and 182 females) had received the first injection.

6. Ambulance Service

The service has a staff of 34 and a fleet of 17 vehicles consisting of 11 ambulances (including one used exclusively for Civil Defence Ambulance Training), 5 sitting case cars and a mortuary van. The number of calls, 41,281 was 1.5% less than in the previous year, and the total mileage showed a decrease of 9%. Of the total calls 2.4% were to accidents and 1.8% to emergencies.

7. Prevention of Illness, Care and After-Care.

(a) Tuberculosis.

Chest physicians are employed jointly by the Regional Hospital Board and the Town Council ; the latter pay a portion of their salaries equivalent to 4/11ths of the salary of one chest physician.

In pursuance of their duties relating to the prevention of tuberculosis, the chest physicians are concerned with the welfare of contacts, and arrangements exist whereby they can administer B.C.G. vaccine. In addition, many children are vaccinated by the paediatrician.

The personal and social problems of tuberculous patients may have been factors contributing to the development of the disease ; they may also arise as a result of the illness and may retard recovery. The After-care Officer operates with the staff of the chest clinic and the tuberculosis visitors with the aim of restoring the patients to health and a useful life as soon as possible.

With modern treatment the illness generally has been considerably shortened resulting in a reduced demand for material help, but in an increasing demand for help in finding suitable employment when fit again for work. Of the 75 patients referred as being fit for work in 1955 only 5 have so far not been placed, and after 12 months employment 55 of the 70 who have been placed were still well and at work. Although the placing of disabled people is becoming more difficult, only 16 patients out of a total of 99 referred during 1956 had not been placed by the end of the year ; of the 83 placed, 33 had returned to previous employers, 14 found work for themselves and 21 were placed by the Disablement Resettlement Officer directly in employment.

During the year the After-care Officer dealt with 347 cases ; financial help was obtained for 95 cases, clothing grants for 45, bedding and bedding grants for 11 and free milk for 100.

A further generous donation of £105 has been received from the "Joe Birch Memorial Cup" Fund and paid into the Wolverhampton Voluntary Fund for Tuberculosis, and this money has been used to supplement help given to patients from statutory sources. The "Friends of Prestwood Sanatorium" also sent a donation of £10 10s. for ex-sanatorium patients, and James Beattie Ltd. gave toys at Christmas time which were distributed amongst the children of needy families.

The Occupational Therapy Class which had to close in October 1955 owing to lack of staff was re-opened in July 1956, and is a help to patients who, though discharged from sanatorium, are not yet fit for work.

(b) Other Illness.

The work with non-tuberculous patients still consists chiefly of arranging for admission to convalescent homes when this cannot be arranged through other channels ; the patients are asked to contribute towards the cost according to their means. The following details refer to cases dealt with during the year :—

Applications received			87
Sent to convalescent homes	Adults	67	
	Children	2	
		—	69
Referred back to hospital			4
Applications withdrawn			14
			—
			87

A supply of equipment is available for lending to patients nursed at home, who are required to pay a deposit which is refunded on the return of the equipment in good condition. During the year, equipment was provided for 395 patients nursed at home.

8. Domestic Help.

At the end of the year there were 10 whole time and 38 half-time workers, and in addition 2 part time workers employed for two hours daily ; this staff represents an increase of 5 half-time workers in a year. The 599 cases assisted by the home helps during the year comprised :—

Maternity (including expectant mothers)	80
Tuberculosis	5
Chronic Sick (including aged and infirm)	345
Others	169

The organiser investigates the conditions in every case before domestic help is sent and subsequently she pays weekly visits ; during the year she paid 1,821 visits.

9. Health Education.

An annual contribution of £80 is made to the Central Council for Health Education and one of five guineas to the National Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis. Poster boards in various parts of the town are used for the display of topics supplied by the Central Council for Health Education. Pamphlets prepared by the Central Council on a variety of subjects including measles, influenza and common colds are distributed in the clinics.

Health Education is one of the chief duties of the health visitors who constantly advise mothers on the management, feeding and clothing of children, the danger of accidents, the importance of protecting children against smallpox, diphtheria and whooping cough, and the advisability of having them patch tested for tuberculosis.

The dangers of food poisoning and the importance of cleanliness in food storage and food preparation are stressed in many talks given by members of the staff to various organisations in the town.

10. Mental Health.

(a) Administration.

The Health (Mental Health) Sub-Committee meets monthly and delegates no duties to voluntary associations. Statistical information is placed before the Committee, reports on individual mental defectives are dealt with but no individual reports are received on cases of mental illness.

The staff of the Health Department includes one female and two male mental health officers who are all duly authorised to take initial proceedings for providing care and treatment for persons suffering from mental illness. The female officer also deals with the administration of the Mental Deficiency Acts, and the male officers, one a former relieving officer and the other a state registered nurse and state registered mental nurse, undertake the after-care of patients who have been mentally ill. The Occupation Centre has

a staff of one Supervisor, five assistants and one trainee together with a domestic assistant and a caretaker. A panel of general practitioners is used for domiciliary visits and for the completion of medical certificates for petitions under the Mental Deficiency Acts and for renewal orders.

Co-operation with the hospital authorities develops steadily if somewhat slowly. The central bed list for mental defectives inaugurated in 1952 by the Regional Hospital Board continues to work well and during the year two males under, and five males over, the age of 16 were admitted to institutions. Fortnightly discussions are held at St. George's Hospital, Stafford, between the hospital staff and the mental health officers of local authorities using the hospital; these officers also attended a case conference at the hospital when patients are considered for leucotomy. Whenever possible a mental health officer is in attendance at the psychiatric out-patient clinic at New Cross Hospital.

Of the patients suffering from mental illness admitted by duly authorised officers to New Cross Hospital for three days 30% were considered to require further treatment in a mental hospital. In 1951, the proportion of patients admitted to New Cross Hospital for observation subsequently admitted to a mental hospital was 14 per cent; in 1952 it was 26 per cent; in 1953 it was 39 per cent and in 1954 and 1955 it was 45 per cent.

The Council makes an annual subscription to the National Association for Mental Health and two trainees from that Association did their practical training at the Occupation Centre, which student health visitors also attend regularly.

(b) Work undertaken in the Community.

(i) Mental Treatment.

Under Section 28 of the National Health Service Act, mental health officers either interviewed in the Health Department or visited in their homes 583 people who had been referred to them by general practitioners or by other departments, or who came

direct to the mental health officers seeking help and advice ; they also paid 220 visits to former mental hospital patients and 13 were being visited regularly at the end of the year.

During the year, 151 persons (68 male and 83 female) were admitted for observation to New Cross Hospital and of these, 41 persons (19 male and 22 female) were subsequently certified to be of unsound mind and transferred to a mental hospital ; in addition, 8 persons (2 male and 6 female) were certified at home and taken from there to a mental hospital ; seven women were admitted as temporary patients and two men and one woman were received into a mental hospital under the provisions of Section 30 of the Magistrates Court Act, 1952. Seven persons (2 male and 5 female) were admitted for observation to St. George's Mental Hospital, Stafford. The total number of certified patients admitted to mental hospitals was 59 (23 males and 36 females).

Of the 23 males admitted, 8 were discharged during the year (3 were relieved, one recovered and 4 transferred to the voluntary class). Of the 36 females admitted, 11 were discharged during the year (6 recovered, 4 relieved and one transferred to the voluntary class) and one died. Altogether, 39 certified patients (19 male and 20 female) were discharged from mental hospitals during the year. Twelve patients died.

The number of voluntary admissions again showed an increase to 129 (55 male and 74 females). Of these 129 patients, 92 were discharged, of whom 58 were relieved, 27 had recovered and 7 were not improved ; in addition one person under the age of 16 was admitted under the provisions of the Mental Treatment Act, 1930, and one patient died. The total number of voluntary patients discharged during the year was 121 (48 males and 73 females) and three patients died.

At the end of the year, 466 Wolverhampton residents (216 male and 250 female) were known to be receiving treatment in mental hospitals.

(ii) Mental Deficiency.

Under the Mental Deficiency Acts 11 ineducable children of school age were notified by the Local Education Authority, one was notified by inward transfer, one was notified by the parent and one, a microcephalic coloured baby, by the Infant Welfare Centre. Of these 14 children, one was admitted to a place of safety, 2 were admitted to hospital, and 11 were placed under statutory supervision and attended the Occupation Centre. Eight other children under the age of 5 years were referred by the School Medical Officer for admission to the Occupation Centre and placed under voluntary supervision. Defectives over the age of 16 brought to the notice of the department consisted of 12 referred on leaving special schools, 3 referred by the courts and 2 by transfer from another authority. Of these 17 defectives, 11 were placed under statutory supervision, 5 were admitted to hospital and 1 was placed under voluntary supervision and admitted to the Occupation Centre.

At the end of the year, there were 26 patients (13 males and 13 females) under guardianship, a decrease of two in a year. No new case was placed under guardianship during the year. The homes of patients under guardianship are visited regularly, and arrangements are made for each patient to be seen by a doctor at least once a year. Five children were dealt with under Ministry of Health Circular 5/52 (temporary care).

The number of ascertained defectives known to the Health Department at the end of 1956 was 727 comprising the following :—

	Under 16		Over 16		Total
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
(i) Placed under Statutory Supervision	19	17	138	146	320
(ii) Placed under Guardianship	—	—	13	13	26
(iii) In "Places of Safety"	1	—	—	—	1
(iv) In Hospitals	8	9	115	91	223
(v) Under Voluntary Supervision	13	18	65	61	157
	41	44	331	311	727

Of those classified as "in hospitals" 13 (7 females and 6 males) were on licence from hospital.

The number of ascertained mentally defective persons on the register at the 31st December, 1956 was equivalent to 0.48 per cent of the population.

The Occupation Centre continues to satisfy a great need in the community care of the mentally defective. There were 88 children on the register at the end of the year (an increase of 8) including 2 cases from outside the borough.

The usual activities have been continued ; these include the cookery class for the older girls, speech training classes as part of the daily curriculum with a speech therapist attending twice weekly for children who need special training, and the older girls' weekly health and beauty class which has resulted in an improvement in posture and co-ordinated movement. In addition a "keep fit" class for the senior boys has been started and the girls and boys now take part in out-work, for which they receive a small remuneration which is great encouragement to them. Seven spastic children now attend for whom special equipment and furniture has been provided. The school health services are used, regular visits are paid by a school nurse and the children attend minor ailment and dental clinics when necessary. An exhibition of handwork was held in November when articles were sold to parents and friends who so appreciated the high standard of the work that sufficient orders were placed to keep the children employed for the coming year. A film was made during the year of activities at the Centre including rhythmic games and handicrafts, and this was shown to the parents at one of their half-yearly meetings. The many visitors to the Centre during the year included students from India, Norway and Burma. Numerous gifts including a wheel chair have been received from schools whose pupils continue to take a keen interest in the Centre, and in fact, two of them attend weekly to observe and help with spastics and the care of children.

11. Care of the Aged and Infirm.

The National Assistance Acts provide for persons who, being seriously ill or being aged, infirm or incapacitated are living in insanitary conditions and are unable to obtain proper care and

attention. Action can be taken by the local authority if the Medical Officer of Health certifies that it is necessary to remove such persons either in their own interests or for preventing injury or serious nuisance to others.

During the year 3 cases (two men and one woman) were brought to the notice of the Health Department. In no case was an order made. A man of 78 who was aged and infirm and living in insanitary conditions died before the date fixed for the hearing of the case. The other cases were not proceeded with, as the woman aged 74 appeared to be well nourished and could not be considered for action under the Act, and another man of 78 years of age voluntarily entered accommodation provided under Part III of the National Assistance Act.

12. Epileptics.

Only 12 epileptics have registered under the Council's scheme under the National Assistance Act although there are probably over 200 epileptics in Wolverhampton ; five epileptic children of school age are in special schools ; several other epileptic children, who do not need special education, attend ordinary day schools. Among mental defectives who are not in institutions, 35 children are known to be epileptic and five of these attend the Occupation Centre.

13. Spastics.

Information about the number of spastics in Wolverhampton is not available and only a small proportion of them are known. Spastics of school age include seven in special schools, one in a hospital school, two in private schools, one awaiting admission to a special school and one not at school ; in addition a number of spastics presenting no special educational problem attend ordinary schools. Among mental defectives, some have the additional disability of being spastics, and a class for mentally defective spastic children has been opened at the Occupation Centre ; seven children attend it.

One child who is both spastic and epileptic also attends the Occupation Centre.

14. Blind Persons.

The number of cases registered during the year was 45 blind and 9 partially sighted and the number of blind persons on the register at the end of the year was 347. Their age and sex distribution was :—

Age Group.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Age 2	1	—	1
5—9	2	2	4
10—14	3	1	4
15—19	4	1	5
20—29	11	2	13
30—39	8	11	19
40—49	20	15	35
50—59	21	16	37
60—64	14	16	30
65—69	18	11	29
70 and over	78	92	170
	<u>180</u>	<u>167</u>	<u>347</u>

The table shows that 57 per cent of the registered blind are aged 65 years and over and that 49 per cent are aged 70 years or over.

The following table shows the number of cases registered during the year, the number of these in which treatment was recommended and the number who received it

Cases Registered.	Cause of Disability.			
	Cataract	Glaucoma	Retrolental Fibroplasia	Others
Total	15	3	—	35
Recommended for Treatment	7	—	—	5
Received Treatment	2	—	—	3

There was one case of blindness attributed to ophthalmia neonatorum, in a man of 65. He had no vision in one eye and vision in the other was impaired.

SECTION III. INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

1. Incidence.

The corrected notifications per 1,000 population of certain infectious diseases in Wolverhampton during 1956 are appended :—

Disease.	Rate per 1,000 population.
Scarlet Fever	0.32
Whooping Cough	2.12
Acute Poliomyelitis	
Paralytic	0.065
Non-Paralytic	0.02
Measles	1.62
Dysentery	0.39
Meningococcal infection	0.01
Pneumonia	0.99
Acute Encephalitis	
Infective	0.01
Post-infectious	0.01
Paratyphoid	0.01
Erysipelas	0.08
Food Poisoning	0.08
Puerperal Pyrexia	0.61 or 37.88 per 1,000 total births.
Ophthalmia neonatorum	0.01

There were no cases of diphtheria, smallpox, enteric or typhoid fever.

2. Scarlet Fever.

There were 49 cases only one of which was admitted to hospital. There was one death but this was not among the notified cases.

3. Whooping Cough.

There were 325 notifications ; 6 cases were admitted to hospital and there was one death of a child of 5 months.

4. Poliomyelitis.

Of 13 cases notified (10 paralytic and 3 non-paralytic) 11 were admitted to hospital (10 paralytic and 1 non-paralytic). The two with bulbar type of paralytic poliomyelitis died in hospital.

5. Measles.

Notifications for the year numbered 248 compared with 1,982 during 1955 and 442 in 1954. No deaths occurred and only 3 cases needed hospital treatment.

6. Dysentery.

Notifications were 59, three of which were admitted to hospital. There were no deaths.

7. Meningococcal Infection.

The only case notified was a 15 months old child who was nursed in hospital and recovered.

8. Pneumonia.

There were 151 cases of pneumonia notified and there were 88 deaths but only four of these were amongst the notified cases.

9. Acute Encephalitis.

Of the 3 cases notified, two occurred after mumps. There was one death from encephalitis in a girl of 15 years, but she was not a notified case.

10. Paratyphoid Fever.

There was one notified case, a 15 year old boy, who was nursed in hospital and recovered.

11. Food Poisoning.

There were 12 cases notified. The 6 found to be infected with *Salmonella Typhimurium* were nursed in Hospital. There were no deaths.

12. Puerperal Pyrexia.

The number of cases notified was 93 ; of these, 3 were patients confined in a nursing home, 7 were patients confined at home and 83 were patients confined in hospital.

13. Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

There was one case, born in hospital and transferred to an Eye Hospital. There was no apparent impairment of vision.

14. Miscellaneous.

Among the miscellaneous cases notified were 13 cases of erysipelas.

15. Venereal Diseases.

The treatment of these diseases is the responsibility of the Regional Hospital Board and facilities are provided at the Royal Hospital.

Syphilis. During the year, 50 cases (23 males and 27 females) were dealt with for the first time; 4 of them were suffering from primary or secondary syphilis, or latent syphilis in the first year of infection. Of these 50 cases, 46 were Wolverhampton residents.

Gonorrhoea. There were 204 cases (169 males and 35 females) dealt with for the first time, and 156 of these were Wolverhampton residents.

Other conditions. The number of cases dealt with for the first time was 542 (380 males and 162 females), but 256 of them (157 males and 99 females) did not require treatment. Of the 542 cases, 342 were Wolverhampton residents.

16. Tuberculosis.

The local health authority is responsible for measures designed to prevent tuberculosis, and they include advising the Housing Department on the letting of houses to families containing a tuberculous member, persuading all contacts of known cases to report for examination at the chest clinic, the routine patch testing of all infants attending welfare centres and all school entrants, and B.C.G. vaccination of school leavers, of whom over 1,700 were vaccinated during the year.

Readily available X-ray facilities for practitioners to investigate their patients have continued to prove very valuable.

Since 1920 there have been continuous declines in both the pulmonary and non-pulmonary death rates in Wolverhampton. In 1951 the death rate from all forms of tuberculosis had declined to 51 per 100,000, in 1952 it was 25, in 1953 it was 30, in 1954 it was 27, in 1955 it was 17 and in 1956 (with 19 deaths, 18 pulmonary and one non-pulmonary) it was 12 per 100,000 population.

Notification.

Year	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
Pulmonary					
Male	103	117	86	74	97
Female	82	80	64	51	69
Non-Pulmonary					
Male	8	10	10	7	10
Female	9	7	12	10	8
Total	202	214	172	142	184

The cases remaining on the register at the end of 1956 were classified as follows :—

Pulmonary.

Male	624
Female	451
	<u>1,075</u>

Non-Pulmonary.

Male	56
Female	54
	<u>110</u>

Deaths.

The deaths from tuberculosis in 1956 and the preceding 4 years are given below :—

Year	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
Pulmonary					
Male	29	36	28	19	14
Female	6	9	12	3	4
Non-Pulmonary					
Male	5	4	3	3	1
Female	1	—	—	2	—
Total	41	49	43	27	19

Details of notifications and deaths are given below :—

Age.	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
0— 1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1— 4	2	6	1	—	—	—	—	—
5—14	7	7	2	—	—	—	—	—
15—24	27	28	3	3	—	1	1	—
25—44	28	21	4	2	3	2	—	—
45—64	27	5	—	2	7	1	—	—
65—74	5	1	—	—	4	—	—	—
75 & over	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Totals	97	69	10	8	14	4	1	—

17. Cancer.

The number of deaths attributed to cancer and allied conditions was 309. The age distribution of cases was :—

Age.	Male.	Female.	Total.
0— 4	—	—	—
5—14	1	—	1
15—24	—	—	—
25—44	13	16	29
45—64	78	52	130
65—74	49	33	82
75 and over	29	38	67
	—	—	—
	170	139	309
	—	—	—

The sites of the disease were :—

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Lip	—	1	1
Parotid	1	—	1
Upper alveolus	1	—	1
Pharynx	1	—	1
Hypopharynx	1	—	1
Oesophagus	9	2	11
Stomach	38	21	59
Small Intestine	—	1	1
Large Intestine	14	15	29
Rectum	8	10	18
Biliary passages and liver (primary)	1	2	3
Liver (secondary and unspecified)	—	2	2
Pancreas	8	8	16
Peritoneum	—	4	4
Lung and Bronchus	60	6	66
Breast	—	28	28
Uterus	—	15	15
Ovary	—	8	8
Vagina	—	2	2
Prostate	5	—	5
Scrotum	2	—	2
Kidney	1	—	1
Bladder	6	2	8
Skin	—	5	5
Brain and Central Nervous System	3	2	5
Thyroid Gland	—	1	1
Bone	1	—	1
Lymph Nodes (secondary and unspecified)	1	—	1
Other sites	2	3	5
Lymphosarcoma	1	—	1
Hodgkins Disease	2	—	2
Multiple Myeloma	1	—	1
Leukaemia	3	1	4

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.**F. Binns Hartley, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.**

The shortage of qualified public health inspectors remains a problem, and the Health Committee, committed to the slum clearance programme, again accepted the fact that concentration on this aspect of the work would result in the curtailment of the other duties performed by the inspectorial staff.

Work on the programme was pursued with vigour ; 84 individual houses and 6 clearance schemes, involving 632 houses, were represented, and these figures indicate that considerable progress was made by this department. The re-housing of families from slum clearance properties proceeded satisfactorily, although difficulties were experienced by the Housing Committee in providing suitable alternative accommodation for aged persons, with consequent delay in the demolition of blocks of properties in several clearance areas.

The Slum Clearance (Compensation) Act, 1956 came into operation on the 2nd August and its purpose is to provide increased payments to mitigate hardships suffered in a limited number of cases through the resumption of slum clearance on a large scale. The provision in section 1, authorising payment to owner-occupiers of "pink" properties purchased between 1st September, 1939 and 12th December, 1955, and that in Section 3, increasing the payments in respect of well maintained houses, have proved to be of assistance, particularly to owner-occupiers. On the other hand, the provision, in Section 2, for payments to owner-occupiers of business premises where they are the freehold owners or the owners of a lease for longer than one year, has not been of assistance ; local experience has shown that shopkeepers in clearance areas hold weekly tenancies and are therefore unable to satisfy this provision ; however, the Corporation make exgratia payments, under Housing Act provisions, to shopkeepers who do not qualify.

The Clean Air Act, 1956 received the Royal Assent in July and is an important statute, framed with the intention of securing relatively clean air in heavily populated areas within fifteen years.

Provision is made for the formation of "smoke control areas" which may include all types of premises, and a grant of 70% is allowed towards the cost of the conversions necessary in private dwellings in these areas. Disappointment is expressed that no grant is made available towards the cost of conversions in private dwellings outside these control areas. If such a grant were available, an incentive would be provided for the voluntary replacement of old coal burning grates, and while there would be no legal obligation to use smokeless fuels, it is certain that coal would be burned more efficiently, with a resultant reduction in the emission of smoke generally.

During the year sanitary inspectors employed by local authorities in England and Wales became known as public health inspectors. This new title was obtained on August 2nd when the Royal Assent was given to the Sanitary Inspectors (Change of Designation) Act, 1956. There should certainly be fewer misconceptions of the true nature of the duties of a public health inspector than there were about those of a sanitary inspector and it is hoped that the profession will now attract more entrants.

A tribute must be paid to the staff for their continued loyalty and co-operation.

SECTION IV.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. Water Supplies.

Routine samples were taken from the town's main supplies ; 16 were submitted for chemical analysis and 29 for bacteriological examination. An adverse report was received in respect of one of the latter, but 3 repeat samples were reported as satisfactory.

Two complaints were received with regard to the presence of green deposits in kettles, and the water supplies were investigated ; samples were taken of the water which had remained in the pipes overnight and the analyses showed that the water contained copper to the extent of 2 parts per million—other samples were taken after the water had run for a time and the analyst reported that the copper content was reduced to .2 parts per million. Both complainants were informed that the discolouration was due to the action of the water upon new copper pipes and that it could be lessened by running a quantity of water to waste each morning prior to use for domestic purposes.

2. Swimming Bath Water.

A total of 8 chemical and 10 bacteriological samples was submitted for analysis and examination and all proved to be satisfactory ; the standards imposed are those obtaining for drinking water.

The use of “break point” chlorination was continued, and the maintenance of a satisfactory bacteriological standard indicated its efficiency.

3. Streams.

Samples of water were taken for bacteriological examination and chemical analysis from a stream running through land proposed to be used as a site for caravans ; the bacteriological examination proved to be unsatisfactory.

Following the notification of cases of dysentery on a Council housing estate, a sample of water was taken from a stream running through the area ; the result of the bacteriological examination showed that the stream was polluted but was not the source of infection.

4. Offensive Trades.

Offensive trades operated upon 10 premises.

Further complaints were received with regard to offensive odours emanating from a factory used for gut scraping ; the method used is modern and mechanical, and the treatment commences immediately the guts are received. However, the nature of the process is such that one of the waste products is a pulped tissue, the disposal of which is difficult to achieve without nuisance. Its discharge into the drainage system was continued, and frequent visits were made to the area surrounding the factory in order to ascertain if any nuisance existed.

At the end of 1955, a complaint had been made of fumes being emitted from a factory, used for bone boiling and fat extracting. Investigations continued and the emission was found to be due to a breakdown in the fume extraction plant. The defects were immediately remedied, and the nuisance was abated ; furthermore, since the installation of a deodorising unit in the factory, no complaints of this nature have been received.

5. Hairdressers' and Barbers' Premises.

One application was received and approved under Section 87 of the Wolverhampton Corporation Act, 1936 for the registration of a hairdresser and his premises ; 154 persons and their premises are now on the register and 14 inspections were made.

Complaints were received that hairdressing was being carried on at both factories and dwelling houses not registered for the purpose ; these were investigated, and the opinion of the Town Clerk was requested when necessary. Experience has shown that, in some factories, the management provide suitable facilities for a hairdresser ; in other factories, employees will cut the hair of

fellow workmen in their free time, no special place being set aside. In these latter instances, the practice is not greatly different from that of persons cutting each others hair in their own homes. In either factory or dwelling house, it must be proved that a business has been established before the legislation obtaining can be enforced.

6. Pharmacy and Poisons Act, 1933.

Seven applications were received for entry in the local authority's list of persons entitled to sell poisons under Part II of the above-mentioned Act and the regulations made thereunder ; these applications were granted. A total of 144 persons and firms operating from 190 premises are now on the register.

Nineteen routine visits were paid to the premises listed, for the purpose of ensuring compliance with the Regulations with regard to the storage and sale of Part II poisons.

7. Sanitation.

A total of 1,706 complaints was received and investigated.

The following table summarises the inspections made and the notices served and complied.

		Inspections made	NOTICES.			
			Served		Complied with	
			Inti- mation	Statutory	Inti- mation	Statutory
Dwelling Houses :—						
Public Health Act	...	1,872	831	363	610	392
Drainage		600	25	134	25	134
Miscellaneous		2,846	—	—	—	—
Totals		5,318	856	497	635	526
Total re-visits to all premises					4,707	
Total improvements recorded					2,464	

8. Infectious Diseases.

One hundred and seventy-seven visits were made in connection with cases of infectious diseases notified to the Medical Officer of Health. Housing conditions, contacts and their employment, milk supplies and, in appropriate cases, the means of isolation formed the subjects of the enquiries.

9. Keeping of Animals.

Three inspections of premises were made in connection with the keeping of animals.

10. Fumigation, Disinfection and Disinfestation.

The following table summarises the action taken by this department :—

Fumigation and Disinfection.	
No. of rooms sprayed	113
No. of rooms fumigated	71
No. of library books fumigated	96
Articles sprayed :—	
Personal clothing	78
Bedding	16
Blankets	6
Sheets	8
Disinfestation.	
No. of rooms sprayed	75
No. of rooms fumigated	29

11. Smoke Abatement.

An event of major importance was the passing of the Clean Air Act which received the Royal Assent in July. For the first time, legislation is available for dealing with private dwellings, and the enforcement of the provisions of the Act will affect all sections of the community.

Those sections of the Act which operated from the 31st December include provisions for the formation of “smoke control areas” in which the emission of smoke is prohibited with certain exemptions. A proportion of the persons owning and/or occupying premises in such an area would have to bear the expense of providing solid smokeless fuel burning grates or alternative means of space heating, cooking and water heating, although a grant of

70% of the cost of the work necessary to comply with the provisions of the Order would be made in the case of private dwellings. The remaining provisions which are now operative require that new furnaces shall be smokeless so far as practicable, compulsory notification to the authority of the proposed installation of new furnaces and the optional submission of plans of new furnaces for approval, that the plans of new chimneys to industrial premises shall be rejected unless their height is such as to prevent so far as practicable the emission of smoke, grit, dust or gases from becoming prejudicial to health or a nuisance, and the incorporation in Building Byelaws of the requirement that arrangements for heating or cooking are designed for burning gas, electricity, coke or anthracite. The last mentioned is of importance as grants are not payable in respect of adaptations of fireplaces in private dwellings, the erection or conversion of which was commenced after the 5th July, 1956.

Seventy-six smoke observations were made and three excessive emissions of black smoke or grit from three factories were recorded. Major alterations to the boiler installations at two of these premises are at present being undertaken and their completion should reduce the risk of further contraventions; extensive alterations are also contemplated at the third premises. In addition, improvements have been completed or are at present being undertaken at other premises; these include the conversion of installations from coal burning to oil and coke burning, a conversion from the burning of pulverised coal to the burning of a creosote pitch mixture, the replacement of hand fired and other boilers with automatic firing devices, and the installation of new dust arresters to metallurgical furnaces.

12. Atmospheric Pollution.

Investigations were continued by means of one deposit gauge, four lead peroxide cylinders, one volumetric sulphur dioxide measuring apparatus and one smoke filter.

The deposit in the Cleveland Road area was at the rate of 280 tons per square mile.

13. West Midlands Clean Air Campaign.

This authority agreed to support a campaign organised by the Midland Centre of the Sanitary Inspectors' Association in conjunction with the Gas and Electricity Boards, the Solid Smokeless Fuels Federation, the Combustion Engineering Association, the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research and the National Smoke Abatement Society. Various local authorities co-operated in the campaign and the West Midlands Clean Air Committee arranged the dates for a series of Clean Air Exhibitions, the Wolverhampton exhibition being scheduled for January, 1957. The objects of the campaign were to make the public aware of the provisions of the Clean Air Act and to demonstrate to them the evils of air pollution and the methods by which clean air can be achieved.

Preparatory work for the exhibition was well advanced by the end of the year.

14. Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948.

In addition to works of building construction, etc., it is estimated that there are 950 factories within the borough; of these 880 have mechanical power and the remaining 70 have no mechanical power.

One hundred and fifty-eight inspections were carried out for the purpose of enforcing those parts of the Factories Acts and Regulations for which the local authority is responsible. As a result of these inspections 18 notices were served; of the 37 defects found, 23 were of insufficient, unsuitable or defective sanitary accommodation. Defects remedied during the year amounted to 64, of which 34 referred to sanitary accommodation.

Details of inspections made, defects found and remedied, etc., are set out in the following tables :—

INSPECTION OF FACTORIES.

Premises	No. on Register	Number of		
		Inspec- tions	Written Notices	Prose- cutions
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by local authorities	70	1	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the local authority	880	156	18	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the local authority (excluding outworkers premises)	84	1	—	—
Totals	1,034	158	18	—

Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecu- tions instituted
	Found	Reme- died	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspec- tor	By H.M. Inspec- tor	
Want of cleanliness (S.1.) ...	8	20	—	8	—
Overcrowding (S.2.) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3.)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4.)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences (S.7.)					
(a) Insufficient	3	1	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	20	33	—	8	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	2	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	6	10	—	—	—
Totals	37	64	—	18	—

Outworkers : Lists of Outworkers received.

Description of Homework	No. of Outworkers	
	February	August
Making, repairing or altering of wearing apparel	24	25
Making of boxes, etc.	12	12

15. Noise Nuisances.

Section 107 of the Wolverhampton Corporation Act, 1936 makes provision for action in respect of excessive, unreasonable or unnecessary noise where this is injurious or dangerous to health, but the defence available favours the person carrying on any trade, business or occupation and attempts are therefore made to achieve satisfactory results by co-operation.

The complaints received referred to either mechanical noises or noises due to the handling of manufactured articles. In no instance was the noise considered excessive or unreasonable having regard to the nature of the work. The majority of the complaints referred to noise occurring at night and at the weekend ; the operations concerned were claimed to be necessary, but every effort was made by the department to secure their reduction, although in most of the former instances a full night shift was the normal practice. All practical measures were taken to reduce the noise to a minimum in each case.

A complaint was received of considerable noise in the preparation of a building site, but the operations were of short duration and could not have been carried out more quietly.

16. Rag Flock and other Filling Materials.

No further applications for registration were received ; eight premises are registered under the provisions of the Act.

17. Canal Boats.

Thirty-six inspections were carried out and 18 infringements of the Public Health Act and the Canal Boat Regulations were

found. Thirteen notices were served and of these, 2 were complied with ; in addition, 4 of the notices outstanding at the end of 1955 were complied with.

The population of the boats inspected amounted to 83 persons, of whom 45 were adults and 38 were children.

18. Rodent Control.

Normal routine work was carried out and details of the activity are given in the following report, which was submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. It is interesting to note that the total number of treatments carried out at business premises was the highest since the scheme commenced in 1947. During the last three years, an average of over 200 treatments per annum has been carried out compared with an average of 150 treatments per annum for the first seven years. The number of business premises making use of the service provided by the local authority is continually increasing.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

	Type of Property				
	Non-Agricultural				(5) Agri- cultural
	(1) Local Authority	(2) Dwelling Houses (inc. Coun- cil Houses)	(3) All other (including Business Premises)	(4) Total of Cols. (1), (2) and (3)	
(i) Number of properties in Local Authority's District	240	44,656	6,713	51,609	8
(ii) Number of properties inspected as a result of—					
(a) Notification	69	638	163	870	—
(b) Survey under the Act	—	—	—	—	8
(c) Otherwise	—	—	—	—	—
(iii) Total inspections carried out— including reinspec- tions	118	770	248	1,136	8
(iv) Number of proper- ties inspected (in Sect. ii) which were found to be infested by—					
(a) Rats { (Major	—	—	—	—	—
{ (Minor	38	281	74	393	3
(b) Mice { (Major	—	—	—	—	—
{ (Minor	30	295	83	408	—
(v) Number of infested properties (in Sect. iv) treated by the Local Authority	68	576	157	801	—
(vi) Total treatments carried out— including re-treat- ments	104	689	244	1,037	—

19. Nuisances from Pigeons.

At the end of 1955, complaints were received of nuisances being caused in the town centre by stray pigeons, and investigations proved that they were justified. A large number of birds was sheltering and nesting on various buildings, which were becoming extensively fouled by droppings. In December, traps were placed on the flat roofs of two buildings in the town centre ; a member of the staff visited the traps three times daily, removed the trapped pigeons, rebaited the traps and transported the birds to a loft specially constructed in the grounds of the Health Department. All unringed birds were destroyed and the ringed ones were returned to their owners ; a sum of two shillings and sixpence was requested from an owner for the despatch of a bird. This practice continued during 1956, and at the end of the year, the number of birds trapped amounted to 184 ringed and 281 unringed, making a total of 465, and the nuisances were much less in evidence.

SECTION V.

HOUSING.

1. Slum Clearance.

The Council's slum clearance proposals, which had been approved in the previous year by the Minister of Housing and Local Government, envisaged the clearance of 2,250 houses in areas and 250 individual houses during the five years commencing the 1st January, 1955.

Considerable progress was again made towards the fulfilment of the programme ; a further six clearance schemes, which involved 632 houses, were represented.

Many of the 84 houses represented individually had been scheduled for inclusion in the Council's proposed clearance schemes, but their condition became such that immediate action was necessary to secure the rehousing of the occupants.

The following data summarises the progress made under Parts II and III of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(A) Clearance Schemes.

(i) Dale Street Clearance Scheme.

The No. 1 Compulsory Purchase Order, which formed the greatest proportion of the Scheme, had been confirmed by the Minister of Health in 1940. The occupier of one of the four "grey" properties remaining occupied found alternative accommodation and the property was subsequently demolished.

The rehousing of the occupants and the clearance of the houses in the smaller compulsory purchase and clearance orders confirmed by the Minister of Housing and Local Government in 1954 were continued. Three houses were vacated involving the displacement of 7 persons, and 21 houses were demolished.

(ii) Schemes initiated during 1954 and 1955.

The following table gives the numbers of houses included in these schemes together with details of the progress made regarding the displacement of persons and the number of houses demolished :—

Clearance Scheme	No. of occupied houses.	Estimated number of persons to be displaced.	Activity during the year 1956.		Progress since initiation of scheme.	
			No. of houses demolished.	No. of persons displaced.	No. of houses demolished.	No. of persons displaced.
Charles Street	111	349	75	71	75	305
Herbert Street	24	100	15	9	15	67
Grove Street (Heath Town)	71	220	69	80	69	216
Wolverhampton Road (Heath Town)	18	65	15	32	15	59
St. Matthew Street	142	427	11	257	11	290
Montrose Street	98	329	6	225	6	238
Vauxhalls	119	346	—	178	—	179
Bagnall Street	223	722	—	338	—	340
Wright Street	107	351	6	197	6	197
Pond Lane	44	139	—	46	—	59

The Wright Street and the Pond Lane Compulsory Purchase Orders were confirmed by the Minister of Housing and Local Government without modification on the 9th January. Payments for good maintenance were recommended in respect of two houses in the former Order.

(iii) Schemes initiated during 1956.

(a) Pearson Street Clearance Scheme.

This scheme, which comprised 7 Clearance Areas affecting 175 houses, was represented on the 15th February. Five Compulsory Purchase Orders and 7 Clearance Orders affecting 149 houses coloured "pink" were made by the Council on the 26th March; the remaining 26 houses had been acquired by the Council and were not included in the Orders.

The Local Public Inquiry was held on the 17th July. Objections were made by 28 owners in respect of 53 premises; 14 of these objections in respect of 21 houses were made on the grounds that the houses were fit for habitation. The Minister of Housing and Local Government confirmed the Orders on the 30th October with slight modifications to 3 of the Compulsory Purchase Orders; 2 houses were included only by reason of bad arrangement and 4 houses were excluded in view of the fact that they had been acquired by the Council after the Orders had been made.

Five houses were vacated and 19 persons displaced; 1 family of 3 persons was rehoused by the Council and 4 families consisting of 16 persons found alternative accommodation; no houses were demolished.

(b) Moseley Street Clearance Scheme.

This scheme, which comprised 9 houses, was represented on the 13th April. A Compulsory Purchase Order was made by the Council on the 25th June.

No objections were received and the Order was confirmed by the Minister of Housing and Local Government on the 9th November without a Public Inquiry being held.

One house was in a dangerous condition and the family of 4 persons was rehoused.

(c) Graiseley Row Clearance Scheme.

This scheme, which comprised 7 Clearance Areas affecting 117 houses, was represented on the 4th June. Two Compulsory Purchase Orders and 6 Clearance Orders were made by the Council on the 23rd July.

Objections were made by 20 owners in respect of 43 premises ; 5 of these objections in respect of 5 houses were made on the grounds that the houses were fit for habitation. The Local Public Inquiry was held on the 4th December, but confirmation of the Orders had not been received by 31st December.

(d) Lower Stafford Street Clearance Scheme.

This scheme, which comprised 4 Clearance Areas affecting 121 houses, was represented on the 11th July. One Compulsory Purchase Order and 2 Clearance Orders were made by the Council on the 24th September.

The Local Public Inquiry in respect of these Orders had not been held by the 31st December.

(e) All Saints' Road Clearance Scheme.

This scheme, which comprised 2 Clearance Areas affecting 117 houses, was represented on the 15th October. Two Compulsory Purchase Orders, affecting 115 houses, were made by the Council on the 26th November ; the two remaining houses had been acquired by the Council.

The Local Public Inquiry in respect of these Orders had not been held by the 31st December.

(f) St. John's Square Clearance Scheme.

This scheme, which comprised 9 Clearance Areas affecting 93 houses, was represented on the 9th November. Three Compulsory Purchase Orders and 1 Clearance Order were made by the Council on the 31st December.

(iv) Future Programme.

The following provisional programme of the areas to be represented during 1957 was formulated :—

Tower Street Area	20 houses
Church Street (Heath Town) Area	60 „
Oxley Street Area	90 „
Cobden Lane Area	300 „
Total	470 „

The preliminary inspections of the properties in the Tower Street, the Church Street (Heath Town) and the Oxley Street Areas were in progress at the end of the year.

(B) Individual Unfit Houses.

Eighty-four houses were represented for action under Part II of the Housing Act, 1936 ; 16 of these houses were either owned or subsequently acquired by the Council and demolition orders were not made in these instances.

(C) The Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925—1932.

In accordance with Ministry of Health Circular Nod. 28/54 the information required under paragraph 31 of the above-mentioned regulations is set out hereunder :—

(1) The number of houses inspected and found not to be in every respect fit for human habitation :—	
(a) In clearance areas	435
(b) Individual unfit houses	84
(c) Public Health Act, 1936	827
(2) The number of houses the defects in which were remedied in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers	598
(3) The number of representations made to the local authority with a view to :—	
(a) The serving of notices requiring the execution of works	—
(b) The making of demolition or closing orders	84
(4) The number of formal notices served requiring the execution of works :—	
(a) Under Housing Act, 1936, Section 9	—
(b) Under Public Health Act, 1936	362
(5) (a) The number of houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices under the Housing Act, 1936, Section 9	—
(b) The number of houses in which defects were remedied after service of statutory notices under Public Health Act, 1936	390
(6) (a) The number of demolition orders made	47
(b) The number of closing orders made—	
(i) Housing Act, 1936, Section 12	5
(ii) Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953	11
(c) The number of closing orders revoked	2
(7) The number of houses in respect of which an undertaking was accepted under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936	—
(8) Number of houses demolished under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936	80

2. Common Lodging Houses.

One hundred and forty three inspections were made of the 2 common lodging houses. Both premises were included in Compulsory Purchase Orders which had been confirmed by the Minister of Housing and Local Government during the year 1955. One of these premises was vacated in June and subsequently demolished ; the occupier was rehoused by the Council and the "lodgers" found alternative accommodation. The Council resolved that the registration of the other premises would not be renewed after the 31st December.

3. Overcrowding.

Fourteen premises were inspected and measured following complaints. In addition, 10 inspections were made of new types of council houses following requests from the Housing Manager for their "permitted numbers."

4. Moveable Dwellings.

Twenty-eight visits were made to accommodation of this nature.

Three applications to station caravans on sites within the borough were received ; two of these were granted and the third was still under consideration at the end of the year.

5. The Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954—Part II.

The following is a summary of the action taken with regard to applications received for the issue of Certificates of Disrepair and their revocation :—

(a) Certificates of Disrepair.	
Number of applications received	9
Number of applications withdrawn	2
Number of certificates granted	5
Number of applications refused	2
Number of applications outstanding at end of year	—
(b) Revocation of Certificates of Disrepair.	
Number of applications received	3
Number of applications withdrawn	1
Number of certificates granted	3
Number of applications refused	—
Number of applications outstanding at end of year	1

The 2 applications outstanding on the 31st December, 1955, were considered during the year ; 1 certificate was granted and 1 withdrawn. The latter application was however renewed later in the year and subsequently granted.

6. Improvement Grants.

The administrative work in connection with applications for improvement grants is carried out by the Borough Engineer, but in each case this department is consulted regarding the suitability of the property ; 159 such enquiries were received and dealt with.

The Housing Committee approved 101 applications for improvement grants and 82 grants were paid following completion of the works.

7. Housing Subsidies Act, 1956.

Two certificates involving 10 houses were issued.

SECTION VI.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

1. Meat Inspection.

(a) Public Abattoir.

The following table gives details of the numbers of animals slaughtered during the years 1956, 1955 and 1954 :—

	1956	1955	1954
Cattle (other than cows)	13,692	10,250	12,013
Cows	3,204	4,349	4,561
Calves	6,012	4,452	8,784
Sheep	73,759	59,348	75,750
Pigs	51,114	53,574	43,017
Goats	1	36	37
Totals ...	147,782	132,009	144,162

The total for 1956, compared with that for 1955, showed an increase of 11.9% ; in fact, it was greater than the 1954 figure and therefore exceeded any pre-war or post-war total.

The number of cows slaughtered is becoming less each year, and the 1956 total showed a decrease of 26% compared with that for 1955. The quality of this class of animal was much improved with resultant lower condemnations of cow beef and offal.

The staff comprised three full-time meat inspectors and one part-time clerk. The appointment of the third inspector together with the introduction of a working rota system have overcome the problem of overtime, and also dispensed with the previous arrangement of augmentation of the staff when necessary by one public health inspector in rotation.

Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	13,692	3,204	6,012	73,760	51,114	—
Number inspected	13,692	3,204	6,012	73,760	51,114	—
All diseases except tuber- culosis and cysticerci:— Whole carcasses con- demned	14	13	37	69	71	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1,732	797	4	533	715	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis and cysti- cerci:—	12.75	25.28	0.68	0.81	1.53	—
Tuberculosis :— Whole carcasses con- demned	10	25	—	—	22	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	456	478	—	—	1,163	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuber- culosis	3.40	15.69	—	—	2.31	—
Cysticercosis :— Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	32	6	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refri- geration	32	6	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

Meat and Offals condemned. The total weight of meat and offals condemned from all sources amounted to :—

Meat	...	...	34 tons	8 cwts.	0 qrs.	6 lbs.
Offals	...	...	48 tons	9 cwts.	2 qrs.	13 lbs.
Total	...		82 tons	17 cwts.	2 qrs.	19 lbs.

This amount was 41 tons 9 cwts. 0 qrs. 4 lbs. less than that recorded for the previous year and included 2 cwts. 2 qrs. 18 lbs. of meat and offals condemned from the Cold Stores and other sources.

Tuberculosis Orders 1938-1946. The number of animals sent to the abattoir for slaughter under these Orders was the lowest ever recorded, only three cows being received. Upon inspection, the complete carcase and the associated offals of one cow was condemned for generalised tuberculosis while the offals only were condemned in the other two animals.

It is interesting to note that the number of animals notified under these Orders has decreased steadily since 1945 when the total was 44. The policy of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food in connection with the eradication of tuberculosis from dairy herds has been the significant factor in this decrease.

Slaughter of Animals Acts, 1933-1954. Fifty-eight licences were renewed and 10 new licences issued, making a total of 68 persons on the register as compared with 69 in the previous year.

In addition 5 slaughtermen, issued with licences by other local authorities, were employed.

Transport and Carrying of Meat. The vehicles used for transporting carcases and offals were maintained in a satisfactory condition ; Part VI of the Food Hygiene Regulations came into operation in July and the vehicles were fitted to comply with the new legislation ; in all cases impervious receptacles were provided for offal.

The requirement relating to the wearing of clean and washable overalls and head covering by persons engaged in carrying meat was rigidly enforced.

Improvements. The entire premises, including the overhead runways, were redecorated and improved lighting was installed in sections of the main cooling hall.

At the end of the year the emergency slaughterhouse was in the process of being refitted.

Case of Anthrax diagnosed at the Abattoir. Immediately prior to midday on Saturday, 14th July, a casualty cow was received for slaughter. It was stated that the animal was "blown" and that the veterinary officer in attendance desired to see the carcass immediately after slaughter.

The live animal was inspected and showed no symptoms diagnostic of anthrax. It was then slaughtered and the blood appeared to be of normal colour and consistency. At this point efforts were made to contact the veterinary officer by telephone and the inspector, on returning to the slaughterhouse, found that the animal had been eviscerated and flayed and that the carcass and offal were awaiting inspection.

Post mortem evidence of anthrax, consisting of a greatly enlarged and dark spleen, inflammatory condition of stomach, intestines and associated glands, congestion of the liver and kidneys and the distention of the subcutaneous veins of the carcass, was immediately available.

Killing in the bay was immediately suspended and the carcass, organs and hide together with those of two other cattle, which were in the bay at the time, were isolated. The inspector under the Diseases of Animals Acts was then notified.

During the afternoon anthrax was confirmed by veterinary officers of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, and the same evening steps were taken for the protective inoculation of all persons having had contact with the infected carcass; inoculation commenced on Sunday morning and was continued for five days.

Disinfection of the affected premises and sterilisation or destruction of all utensils and fittings were carried out during the weekend by Corporation staff acting under Ministry guidance.

The three carcasses together with offal and hides were removed on Monday morning to the Corporation refuse destructor and the slaughter bay was reopened at 10.30 a.m.

If the infected carcase had been admitted during the normal day and not, as in this case, almost at the end of the week's kill, considerable inconvenience would have been caused.

The need for reopening the emergency slaughterhouse, which was in use as a men's dressing room due to shortage of accommodation, was stressed by this occurrence; at the end of the year arrangements were well in hand for its refitting and it should be available for use early in 1957.

(b) Private Slaughterhouse.

At the only private slaughterhouse 10,617 pigs were slaughtered for bacon curing. 477 pigs (4.49%) showed evidence of disease; 388 (3.65%) were found to be affected with tuberculosis, while 89 (.84%) were affected with other diseases.

The total amount of meat and offals condemned was 3 tons 9 cwts. 0qr. 14 lbs. consisting of 2 tons 16 cwts. 1 qr. 8 lbs. of meat and offals from animals affected with tuberculosis and 12 cwts. 3 qrs. 6 lbs. from animals affected with other diseases.

2. Food Inspection.

Nine hundred and seventy-one visits were paid to grocers' shops, warehouses, the markets, restaurants, school kitchens and other food premises for the purpose of food inspection. The total weight of foodstuffs found to be unfit for human consumption was 5 tons 7 cwts. 2 qrs. 12 lbs.

3. Disposal of Condemned Food.

Carcase meat and offal are processed at the Public Abattoir and the residual fertilisers are sold to a local firm of horticulturists. Tinned goods are disposed of by incineration at the Cleansing Department's depot.

4. Milk Supply.

Regular inspection of dairies was carried out together with close supervision of milk processing by pasteurisation and sterilisation. With the exception of a comparatively small quantity of tuberculin tested milk bottled at the farm, all milk sold is either pasteurised or sterilised.

Seventy-two and 451 visits were made to dairies and milk-shops respectively.

Bacteriological and Biological Examinations. The number of milk samples taken for examination was again less than in previous years.

No sample of sterilised milk failed the turbidity test; no sample of pasteurised milk failed either the methylene blue or phosphatase test, but three samples of tuberculin tested (farm bottled) milk failed the methylene blue test. The results obtained from the bacteriological tests were considered to be very satisfactory and indicated that the milk supply maintained a high standard.

REGISTRATIONS.

Number of Persons and Firms on Register	463
Dairies	8
Bottled Milk Shops	451
Dairies outside Borough retailing milk within	4
Retail Purveyors	30
Dealers, Sterilisers and Pasteurisers	4

Details of Samples Taken for Bacteriological Examination.

Class of Milk	Number taken	Appropriate Tests	Passed	Failed
Tuberculin Tested (Farm Bottled)	25	Methylene Blue	22	3
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	54	Phosphatase	54	—
Pasteurised	63	Methylene Blue	54	—
		Phosphatase	63	—
		Methylene Blue	63	—
Sterilised	67	Turbidity	67	—

5. Ice Cream.

Ten applications for the registration of premises for the sale of pre-packed ice cream were received and approved, and 7 premises were removed from the register, making a total of 504 premises registered. One manufacturer's premises was removed, leaving a total of 11 on the register.

The following table summarises the notices served, inspections made and the improvements recorded in respect of the premises used for manufacture and sale :—

Notices Served (Intimation)	1
Notices Complied with (Intimation)	1
Inspections of :—	
Manufacturers' Premises	61
Vendors' Premises	113
Total Improvements Recorded	8

The improvements recorded at manufacturers' premises included the re-decoration and repair of buildings, the replacement of worn machinery and the provision of additional washing facilities.

Sampling.

(a) Methylene Blue Test.

Sixty-seven samples of ice cream were examined and placed in the Ministry's provisional grades.

The following tables show a summary of the results of the methylene blue test applied to the samples and also give a comparison with 1955 :—

Manufactured within the Borough.

Year	Total No. of Samples Taken	PROVISIONAL GRADE			
		1	2	3	4
1956	29	23 79%	2 7%	— —	4 14%
1955	20	16 80%	2 10%	1 5%	1 5%

Manufactured outside the Borough.

Year	Total No. of Samples Taken	PROVISIONAL GRADE			
		1	2	3	4
1956	38	38 100%	—	—	—
1955	30	30 100%	—	—	—

It will be noted that four (6%) of the samples taken during 1956 were placed within Grade 4. Following investigation and advice, repeat samples were obtained and found to be satisfactory.

It is generally accepted that over a six monthly period, 80% of samples taken from a vendor should fall within Grades 1 and 2, not more than 20% within Grade 3 and none within Grade 4.

The following table shows comparisons of the unsatisfactory results of samples examined during the years 1947 to 1956 inclusive :—

Year.	No. of Samples	Unsatisfactory.	
		No.	%
1947	69	48	70
1948	108	68	63
1949	99	31	31
1950	163	37	23
1951	117	12	10
1952	141	19	13
1953	140	1	.7
1954	106	7	6.6
1955	50	2	4.0
1956	67	4	6.0

(b) Chemical Analysis.

Forty-two samples of ice cream including choc bars were submitted for chemical analysis compared with 44 for the previous year. All samples were reported to be genuine.

Ice Lollies. In addition to the 11 premises registered for the manufacture of ice cream, 3 premises are registered for the manufacture of ice lollies only.

Twenty-nine samples of varying flavours and composition were submitted for bacteriological examination compared with 8 samples for the previous year, and were reported to be satisfactory. In addition, a sample of a raw product was submitted and no pathogenic organisms were isolated.

Six samples were taken for chemical analysis and proved to be genuine.

6. Cream.

Eighteen samples were submitted for bacteriological examination. There is no statutory standard for fresh cream but the laboratory placed the samples in the following categories :—

Provisional grade 1	...	...	...	4 samples
Provisional grade 2	...	...	...	2 „
Provisional grade 3	...	...	...	1 „
Provisional grade 4	...	...	...	11 „

Four of the eleven samples, in which coliform organisms were reported to be present in one tenth ml. dilution, contained the faecal type. Fourteen of the samples passed the phosphatase test.

7. Sampling.

Three hundred and twelve samples of food and drugs, consisting of 126 formal and 186 informal, were taken for analysis by the Public Analyst. Six samples (1.89%), two of which were formal, were found to be non-genuine or otherwise unsatisfactory.

None of the 105 samples of milk taken for analysis was reported to be adulterated, but 23.8% of the samples contained only, or were below, the minimum legal standard of 8.5% solids not fat. The percentage of non fatty solids present in all the milk samples taken averaged 8.51%, compared with pre-war average of 8.83%. This deterioration in the quality of the milk supply is not peculiar to this area but applies generally throughout the country.

A sample of sunflower salad oil was found to consist of arachis oil. Upon enquiries being made it was found that the manufacturers had gone into liquidation. The retailer withdrew the remainder of his stock from sale.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955.

Summary of Samples taken.

Article	Number examined			Number adulterated		
	Formal	Informal	Total	Formal	Informal	Total
Butter		6	6			
Candied Peel		4	4			
Cereals		8	8			
Cheese Spread		4	4			
Cod Liver Oil		1	1			
Coffee and Chicory		2	2			
Cooking Fat		2	2			
Cream	5	8	13			
Cream Buns		1	1		1	1
Cream Cheese		1	1			
Dried Fruits		15	15			
Dripping		2	2			
Fish Cakes	1		1			
Fish Paste		2	2			
Formalin Tablets	1	1	2		1	1
Fruit Juices & Syrups		4	4		1	1
Gin	1		1			
Glacé Cherries		3	3			
Ground Almonds		6	6			
Ground-nut Oil		2	2			
Halibut Liver Oil		3	3			
Honey		1	1			
Imitation Cream		1	1		1	1
Jam		12	12			
Jellies	1	5	6	1		1
Lard		3	3			
Lemon Curd		4	4			
Malt & Cod Liver Oil		1	1			
Malt & Halibut Liver Oil		1	1			
Margarine		7	7			
Marmalade		2	2			
Milk	104	1	105			
Milk, Condensed		4	4			
Mincemeat		5	5			
Miscellaneous Drugs		9	9			
Miscellaneous Foods		30	30			
Olive Oil		3	3			
Sauces		5	5			
Sausage	5		5			
Shredded Beef Suet		2	2			
Spices		10	10			
Sugar, Demerara		1	1			
Sunflower Salad Oil	1		1	1		1
Rum	2		2			
Vitamin "C" Tablets		4	4			
Whisky	5		5			
Totals	126	186	312	2	4	6

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955.

Administrative Action Taken Regarding Samples Reported not to be Genuine.

No. of Sample	Article of Food	Formal or Informal	Nature of Adulteration or Irregularity	Legal Proceedings Instituted		Observations
				Fine inflicted £ s. d.	Costs imposed £ s. d.	
18	Formalin Tablets	Informal	Deficient of formaldehyde			Formal sample genuine.
29	Sunflower Salad Oil	Formal	Consisted of Arachis Oil			Manufacturers in liquidation. Retailer withdrew remainder of stock.
30	Table Jelly	Formal	Contained no sugar			Letters to manufacturers and Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.
147	Raspberry Syrup	Informal	Unsatisfactory label			Letter sent to importer.
287	Cream Buns	Informal	Cream consisted of fat foreign to milk fat			Formal sample genuine.
289	Imitation Cream	Informal	Unsatisfactory label			Formal sample taken.

8. Dried Hen Egg Albumen.

Seven thousand nine hundred pounds of dried hen egg albumen known to be infected with salmonella organisms were reconstituted and subjected to an approved process of heat treatment. Seventy-nine samples of the treated product were taken for bacteriological examination and were reported to contain no pathogenic organisms.

9. Chinese Frozen Whole Egg.

A stock of Chinese frozen whole egg, controlled by the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, was held at the Guy Avenue Cold Store. The Minister of Health requested that sampling be carried out, because a certain type of pack was suspect. A total of 446 samples, amounting to 1% of the stock, was submitted for bacteriological examination.

Salmonella organisms of the following types were isolated in 9 of the samples examined :—

Salmonella aberdeen	...	...	...	...	4
Salmonella thompson	...	...	...	...	3
Salmonella (other types)	...	...	...	...	2

Particulars and results of all samples were communicated to the Senior Medical Officer at the Ministry of Health. On behalf of the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, he authorised the destruction of the 9 contaminated tins.

10. Catering Establishments.

Routine visits totalling 219 were paid to hotels, restaurants, snack bars and school kitchens. Seven informal notices were served, 6 were complied with and 16 improvements recorded.

11. Provision Shops, Warehouses and other Shop Premises.

Three hundred and ten inspections of provision shops and warehouses and 188 inspections of other shop premises were made. Eleven informal notices were served, 5 were complied with and 10 improvements recorded.

12. Wet and Fried Fish Shops.

Seventy-six inspections were made of these premises in addition to visits made in connection with the sampling of shell fish. Two informal notices were served, 2 were complied with and 2 improvements recorded.

13. Shell Fish.

Six samples of mussels were submitted for bacteriological examination ; each sample was reported to contain less than 5 faecal coli per millilitre of tissue and to be satisfactory.

14. Mobile Fish and Chip Shop.

One mobile shop continued to operate within the borough and although it is an old type of vehicle it complies with the existing legislation.

15. Registration of Butchers' Shops and Premises where Preserved Food, etc., is Prepared or Manufactured.

The number of persons and premises registered under Section 67 of the Wolverhampton Corporation Act, 1936 decreased by 2 from the previous year and totalled 177.

Routine inspections numbered 220 ; 8 informal notices were served and 10 were complied with, resulting in 22 improvements.

Four applications were received in accordance with Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, for the registration of premises where preserved food, etc., is prepared or manufactured ; the applications were in order and the premises registered. Sixty-three inspections were made of the 58 premises on the register ; 4 notices were complied with and 9 improvements were recorded.

16. Licensed Premises.

A total of 39 visits was made to these premises ; 1 informal notice was served, 27 were complied with and 56 improvements recorded.

17. Bakehouses.

A total of 38 routine inspections was made ; 3 informal notices were served, 2 were complied with and 2 improvements recorded.

18. The Food and Drugs Act, 1955.**Administrative Action Taken.**

The following table summarises the action taken regarding contraventions of this Act :—

Article of Food	Nature of Offence	Action Taken
Lamb's liver	Discoloured by contact with metal container—alleged unfit for human consumption.	Warning letter sent to retailers.
Loaf of white bread	Presence of feather in bread.	Warning letter sent to firm of bakers.
Pork pie	Small area of mould on pastry cap.	Warning letter sent to retailers and wholesalers.
Roast pork	Presence of maggots.	Warning letter sent to retailers.
Orange drink	Contained a splinter of glass.	Warning letter sent to retailers and manufacturers.
Milk loaf	Presence of a piece of stringy material.	Warning letter sent to firm of bakers.
Fruit cake	Wire nail in cake.	Warning letter sent to baker/retailer.
Pork pie	Presence of mould.	Warning letters sent to retailers and firm of bakers.
Apple & jam turnover	Presence of mould.	Warning letters sent to retailers and firm of bakers.
Blackcurrant pie	Presence of mould.	Warning letters sent to retailers and firm of bakers.
Fruit cake	Fragment of glass in cake.	Warning letter sent to firm of bakers.
Fowl	Maggot infested.	Legal proceedings instituted: Defendant pleaded guilty: fined £8 and ordered to pay £2 costs.
Pressed chawl	Presence of maggots	Warning letter sent to retailer.